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**Friday, January 23, 1976
Magha 3, 1897 (Saka)**

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Fifteenth Session)



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, January 23, 1976 | Magha 3, 1897
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Janta Provident Fund Scheme

*245. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce 'Janta' Provident Fund Scheme in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). A suggestion for introduction of a Janta Provident Fund Scheme for the benefit of small savers has been received. The feasibility of the scheme and the details thereof require detailed examination. No decision has yet been taken.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: The hon. Minister has said just now that a suggestion has been made. I have got certain suggestions. First of all, I would like to know, who has contemplated this very idea of small savings in order to provide the people with a measure of social security? Secondly, it is not true that the National Savings movement must reach the vast number of self-employed people in the urban sector and mop up part of their

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income and hence the need for a new scheme which will be considered shortly by the Centre.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: As far as part (a) of the question is concerned, it has originated from the National Savings Commissioner. The basic feature of the scheme is that though we have already a public provident fund scheme in operation for the last 7 or 8 years, it is specified to be a janta provident fund scheme and it could give more or less the same benefits as are provided under the provident fund scheme. Under the earlier scheme which is in operation, any person who deposits between Rs. 100 and Rs. 20,000 in a year, would be eligible. In the Janta Provident Fund Scheme it is envisaged that any person who saves from Rs. 25 onwards, would be eligible to this and a higher rate of interest is also envisaged. It is also suggested that tax concession and the rebate given under the present scheme should not be granted under the particular scheme. These are some of the salient details. Social security provision is also there. In case of untimely death of the depositor, one should also receive before time the same amount. The second aspect is that this small savings scheme will not confine to urban sector and it will go to the rural sector also. It is the constant endeavour of the National Savings Commissioner and also other deposit institutions and I think, we are making a steady progress in this direction.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: In the first phase, self-employed persons such as Taxi-drivers, rickshaw pullers, bidi and pan shop-keepers are likely to be covered. Is it not true that in order to make the scheme a Janta scheme, suggestions were also given to increase the rate of interest at par with the Commercial banks?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI:

The basic aim is that it should permeate to the lower strata of our people, so far as their income is concerned—for the self-employed people as he has correctly put it—e.g. panwallahs and shopkeepers. The basic idea is that instead of depositing Rs. 25 in one instalment, the instalment of Rs. 5 could be there. That way, even if the people do not have Rs. 5 in one instalment, they can collect stamps of 25 paise, 50 paise or 100 paise and they can add them and put them on the Savings Card. And when the totality of the money comes to Rs. 5, they can be exchanged to a post office savings bank pass book. And that way, he can deposit Rs. 25 in a year. That way, it will directly assist the self-employed people, viz. pan-wallahs and others. About the other question of attractiveness, this is one of the aspects which will have to be examined, viz. whether the amount that will be spent as administrative charges or in the collection or in the printing of the stamps etc. will be commensurate with the returns on it. So, whether an attractive response will be there, in a question which will have also to be considered in depth. About the rate, the rate of interest which has been fixed, as provided in this scheme, is slightly higher; and that, Sir, we will have to examine.

रुपया की विनिमय दर

*246. श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके साथ इस समय हूपाग सीधा रुपया व्यापार चल रहा है ; और

(ख) पौंड स्टर्लिंग के साथ भारतीय मुद्रा का सीधा संबंध विच्छेद होने के पश्चात् भारतीय मुद्रा की योरोपीय व्यापार में क्या स्थिति है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) India has trade relations with the following countries on the basis of payments in non-convertible Indian Rupees:—

The USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, German Democratic Republic, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sudan and Egypt.

(b) There has been no effect of the delinking of the rupee from the Pound Sterling in case of our trade with countries in Eastern Europe with whom we have rupee payment arrangements. Under our payments arrangements with these countries, trade accounts are settled in Indian rupees only and there is no direct link between the Rupee and the Pound Sterling.

As regards Western Europe, the exchange rates of the rupee vis-a-vis currencies of Western European countries, since September 25, 1975 are based on daily exchange rate movements of a few selected currencies of countries which are India's major trading partners.

श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह: अध्यक्ष महोदय, विदेश व्यापार के दो माध्यम थे, एक तो पाउंड स्टर्लिंग और दूसरा हमारा रुपया। मंत्री महोदया ने जो बयान दिया है उससे यह पता चलता है कि जिन देशों के साथ पाउंड के माध्यम से हमारा विदेश व्यापार चलता था उन में अभी तक कोई अंतर नहीं आया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब से हम ने पाउंड के साथ संबंध विच्छेद किया उस समय से ले कर अब तक ब्रिटेन के साथ और यूरोपीय सङ्घाङ्केट के साथ हम ने कितने का व्यापार किया है और उन की प्रतिक्रिया इस संबंध में कौन सी रही है, उन्हें कोई दिक्कत हुई है या बचा नहीं हुई है।

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : पहली बात कि जब पाउंड से रुपये का विच्छेद किया गया उस समय हमारे सामने कुछ कठिनाईयां थी। उन कठिनाईयों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, इंटरनेशनल मानेदरी सीचूशन को ध्यान में रखते हुए और फ्रीकवेंट चेजेंसज जो होते रहते थे क्योंकि कि कई एक करेंसीज उस वक्त फ्लोट करती थी और जब जय पाउंड फलक्चुएट करना था तो उनका एक्सचेंज रेट बदलता था तो बिना कोई सीधा कारण होते हुए भी हमारे ऊपर उस का असर पड़ जाता था और हमें उस से अच्छी खासी अस्थिरता होती थी, तो इन सब बातों को रिब्यू कर के यही निर्णय किया गया कि पाउंड से हमारे रुपये का विच्छेद हो जाना ठीक रहेगा, तो उस से उस का विच्छेद हो गया और जो बास्केट आफ करेंसी है उससे इस को लिंक कर दिया गया। इस से अगर यह प्रश्न है कि पाउंड के कम्पेरिजन में जो हमारा रुपया एग्जिस्ट किया बाकी दूसरी करेंसीज के साथ अलग अलग असर पड़ा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने सवाल क्लृप्त और पूछा था। उन्होंने पूछा कि इसका असर ब्रिटेन के साथ और यूरोपियन कामन मार्केट के साथ क्या हुआ है? यह नहीं पूछा था कि यह आप ने क्यों किया। अगर आप के पास सूचना है तो दीजिये, नहीं है तो माननीय सदस्य दूसरा प्रश्न पूछें।

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : इस की सूचना नहीं है।

श्री शंकर ब्याल सिंह : आप ने जो स्पष्टीकरण किया उस के बाद पहले प्रश्न का तो जवाब आ जाय।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन के पास सूचना नहीं है।

श्री शंकर ब्याल सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाउंड के साथ संबंध विच्छेद के बाद अब तक कितने का व्यापार ब्रिटेन में या यूरोपियन साझा बाजार के साथ हमारा हुआ है?

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : मान्यवर इस का सीधा संबंध इस से क्या है?

Development of Konark (Orissa)

*248. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what specific developments have been proposed by the State Government of Orissa to the Centre at Konark, near the famous Sun Temple; and

(b) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) A suggestion to include the development of a beach complex at Konark as a part of the master plan of development proposed for the area around the Sun Temple at Konark was received from the State Government in 1975.

(b) As the two concepts of development, one around the monument and the other along the beach, are different, the State Government was informed that for the development of beach tourism a separate master plan would be necessary.

The State Government was also informed that since beach tourism in India was a new concept for which international tourist market was limited at present, and in view of the constraints on resources, the efforts of the Central Department of Tourism were being directed towards those beach areas on which the work had already been initiated such as Kovalam, Goa and Mahabalipuram. Thus, it is only after assessing the effectiveness of beach tourism at the above 3

places for attracting international tourists that the Department of Tourism can consider opening up new areas for beach tourism development.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The hon. Minister will agree with me that Konarak is one of the important pieces of monuments that needs to be developed for the attraction of more tourists, particularly in the eastern region of our country. The hon. Minister just now stated that they have received two concepts of development, one around the temple and another on the beach. May I know what is the difficulty if they first take up the development of the area around the temple and then around the sea, so that more tourists are attracted to that area?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: As I have already said in my main reply, as far as the master plan for the development of the area around the temple is concerned, it is being processed and as soon as the details have been finalised we will take up the work. As far as the development of the beach is concerned, I have already given my reply.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: What is the total estimated cost for the development of these areas, first around the temple and second on the sea beach?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: It is premature for me to say what the cost will be. Until we have received the plan and discussed it, it would be difficult to say how much it will cost.

Development of Nagarjunasagar as an International Tourist Centre

*249. **SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to develop Nagarjunasagar as an international tourist centre, I.T.D.C. has proposed to take over Vijaya Vihar Complex

and some other accommodation available at Nagarjunasagar for maintenance and development; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed to the Central Department of Tourism to take over on long lease the 'Vijaya Vihar' Complex and some other accommodation at Nagarjunasagar[Nagarjunakonda which could then be entrusted to the India Tourism Development Corporation for management.

Further action in the matter will be taken on receipt of the terms and conditions of long lease from the State Government which information is still awaited

SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: When did the Central Government ask the State Government to submit the plans for the development of a tourist centre at Nagarjunasagar?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: The idea was mooted for the first time in 1972.

SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Granted that the plans are accepted, who is to meet the cost of the development of the international tourist centre at Nagarjunasagar?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: The question is in regard to the take over of the Vijaya Vihar Complex and not about the development of Nagarjunasagar as a tourist centre.

SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: At the museum at Nagarjunasagar there is a possibility of making replicas of so many plaques and selling them to the tourists who visit the museum. I suppose there is a museum there. So, I would like to know whether the

Government is seriously taking up this matter.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: It is a suggestion for action.

Opening of Regional Rural Banks

*250. **SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more Regional Rural Banks are proposed to be opened in the country during the year 1976; and

(b) if so, where and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Regional Rural Banks have already been established at Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh) and at Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) during the current year and the third Regional Rural Bank will be inaugurated on January 25, 1976 at Bellary (Karnataka). Further locations are being finalised for establishing more banks. Subject to man-power constraints, it would be the Government's endeavour to set up fifty such banks covering various parts of the country by 1st April, 1977.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Keeping in view the rationale of the rural banks and in view of the fact that the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Subramaniam, had said that rural banks have to evolve as economic arteries of rural India, may I know from the hon. Minister whether problems such as the feasibility and commercial soundness of such banks, the practical difficulties in their administration, their viability and such other factors are being viewed in the formulation and establishment of the regional rural banks in the whole country, and if so, whether in view of these factors and considerations, Government still hope that they will be able to open 50 banks by April next year?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: The other day in the course of the discussion of the Bill I mentioned that we are laying emphasis on the following criteria. We see whether the State is unbanked and whether there is potential for development, and we want that each sponsoring commercial bank should have at least one regional rural bank. Through this process we shall try to go ahead in almost every State, but before finally selecting the location of the bank, we look into the question whether the bank is needed there and whether it would have viability also.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am glad, the hon. Minister says that efforts will be made to have these banks opened, if possible, in every State, which means that the idea is to have a well-balanced distribution of these banks all over the country. May I, then, know whether the Government have already concretised schemes for the opening of these banks in the next couple of months, particularly in the western part of India, in Gujarat and Maharashtra?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Perhaps Gujarat and Maharashtra do not come under the first criterion, that they are unbanked States. Secondly, perhaps it is known to the hon. Member that the co-operative movement in both these States has developed to a high level. As I have already mentioned on an earlier occasion, these banks would be supplementary to the co-operative movement. Therefore, if they are needed, definitely they would be established in Gujarat and Maharashtra also, but it will be difficult for me to indicate whether it would be possible to do so within the next couple of months.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र : अध्यक्ष जी, ग्राम विकास की दिशा में ऐसी बैंकों की काफी विशेषता है और खुशी की बात है मन्त्री महोदय ने अभी कहा है कि मार्च, 1977, तक ऐसे 50 बैंक खोले जायेंगे तो इस सबकी

मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में ऐसे कितने बैंक खोले जा रहे हैं।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: It would be difficult for me to indicate the exact number, but we have already established one in Bhojpur District.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: The criteria which have been laid down for opening these regional rural banks are really praiseworthy, and the Minister wants to have a rational dispersal of these banks in all the areas which are unbanked, for instance Bellary in Karnataka. For the information of the hon. Minister I may say that many banks have started in Karnataka and there is no lack of Banks in the State. Of course, that particular area may be a non-bank area. So, in view of the fact that there has been a growing disparity between the irrigated area and the non-irrigated area, between the backward area and the affluent area, because of lack of credit—and the regional banks as indicated by the hon. Minister as are distinguished from the co-operative societies on the one hand and the commercial banks on the other—may I know from the hon. Minister whether he has identified those areas in the country? For instance, an area like Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, where it is a non-bank area. I would like to know whether the Government keeps this aspect in view at the time of starting such regional rural banks.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: A high-powered steering committee has been constituted to look into these aspects and to identify location of rural banks.

श्री सरजू पांडे : श्री माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि पञ्चम क्रम बैंक खोले जायेंगे—मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन का क्राइटेरिया क्या होगा, किस आधार पर खोलेंगे और कितनी दूर तक के लोगों को कर्जा दे सकेंगे ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I told you about it that it is not possible. A steering committee has been constituted to look into this aspect. But I can give you a broad idea. It is not possible to locate the area.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: The hon. Minister said that it shall be the endeavour of the Government to open regional rural banks for the benefit of the rural people in the non-bank areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he meant by this non-bank area. Is there any district in the country today which is not served by banks? I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you, whether he will consider areas where there is a large proportion of gap in the number of persons per bank between the bank areas and the non-bank areas; because there are areas where there is only one bank for one lakh people, whereas in other districts, there are banks for 15,000 or 18,000 people? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will give due consideration to this aspect of areas where lesser number is covered and where the average is 35 per persons per bank. In view of that, I would like to know whether he will go into that matter and refer this thing to the expert committee at the time of settling the sites for the regional rural banks?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member himself has read out the criteria for non-bank and bank areas.

Credit from Nationalised Banks to Rural Poor in U.P.

*251. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to statement made by the Governor of U.P. recently that Rs. 400 crores was needed to give loans to farmers for speeding up agriculture;

(b) if so, steps taken by the nationalised banks in this direction;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to give credit from nationalised banks to the rural poor who were given lands in U.P. according to the Prime Minister's 20-point programme; and

(d) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir; the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, while addressing the Regional Managers of commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh in the meeting held on December 13, 1975, made a mention that the approximate requirements of Uttar Pradesh in the agricultural sector was about Rs. 400 crores.

(b) The total credit needs of the agricultural sector are to be met by different agencies including institutional agencies like the cooperatives and commercial banks. Though no specific target of providing credit in Uttar Pradesh by the commercial banks has been fixed, these banks are endeavouring to step up their lending by expanding their branch base in the rural areas, adoption of more and more villages for intensive loaning, undertaking financing through primary credit societies and formulating special schemes for intensive financing in the State. Besides, commercial banks, mostly public sector banks are sponsoring regional rural banks with a view to developing the rural economy by providing credit facilities to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans and small entrepreneurs etc.

(c) and (d). Public sector banks have reported that during the last six months they have introduced schemes

in the field of agriculture to assist the implementation of the 20-point economic programme. Public Sector banks are encouraging and financing landless agricultural labourers, particularly those released from bonded labour, to take up activities allied to agriculture. Persons who have been allotted land, are being provided finance for working capital requirements as also for term requirements for the purchase of bullocks and agricultural implements and for land development on easy terms of lending. Some public sector banks have also extended consumption loan on a modest scale, to cover medical and educational expenses to small and marginal farmers, particularly those belonging to scheduled castes and tribes.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a Press news where in Agra on 17th December, the Governor of U.P. Dr. Chenna Reddy said that about Rs. 400 crores needed for distribution among farmers as loans to speed up agriculture? Dr. Reddy, who was talking to the newsmen said that distribution of surplus land among the landless had been taken up on a priority basis. But this can only be done successfully after they have given some loans. I would like to know whether it is a fact that they have demanded Rs. 400 crores; and if so, what amount will actually be paid to U.P. to better the fate of these farmers during the 5th Plan?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: We have seen the observations of the Governor of U.P. and the various steps taken by the Banking Department have also been indicated in broad outlines in the statement which I have laid on the Table of the House. Apart from that, the regional rural banks are going to be established; some of which have already been established and a few more may come up. That too will take care of the problem.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: What amount has been given so far during the 5th Plan and what amount has been promised for 1976 for the same purpose?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: This is a very specific question. I require a notice for what amount has actually been disbursed.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि कोभा-परेटिव और कमर्शियल बैंक्स तथा अन्य पब्लिक सैक्टर बैंक्स को इस काम को करने के लिए आदेश प्राप्त है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि विभिन्न बैंकों के द्वारा अब तक कितना क्रेडिट दिया गया है? जैसा गवर्नर साहब ने कहा है कि 100 करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत होगी, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन बैंकों के द्वारा कितना रुपया दिया गया है, क्या आप क पास कोई आकड़े हैं?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I have already mentioned it. As to till today how much credit has been given, I require notice for that.

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAI-NULI: In my opinion, much more important than increasing the number of rural banks is their functioning. The 20-point economic programme envisages improving the lot of general masses of the country, particularly, the weaker sections. Many Departments have chalked out time-bound programmes for this. But we find that the functioning of the rural banks hardly commensurated with the challenges posed by the 20-point economic programme. May I know from the hon. Minister what role these rural banks have so far been playing, what their plans are for the future in regard to the implementation of the 20-point economic programme.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: If by rural banks, the hon. Member means regional rural banks, they have just started coming up. If by rural banks, he means the branches of the commercial banks in the rural

areas, I do agree with the hon. Member that the banks should play an effective role vigorously for implementing the 20-point economic programme. They have already done something. But still they are to play a very vigorous role. We are making a constant exercise to improve their functioning.

Aid from U.K.

*254. **SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.K. propose to give India Rs. 185 crores as aid; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The U.K. Government expects to commit aid worth approximately Rs. 184 crores to India during the financial year 1975-76 made up as under:—

(i) Aid pledged at the Consortium Meeting for 75-76	Rs. 173.25 crores
(ii) Estimated expenditure on Technical Assistance	Rs. 3.75 crores
(iii) Estimated value of wheat proposed to be supplied	Rs. 7.00 crores
	Rs. 184.00 crores

(b) The entire aid will be in the shape of grants.

श्री इसहाक सम्बली : क्या मिनिस्टर साहब मेहरबानी करके बतलायेंगी कि यह जो मदद मिल रही है, इस की शर्तें क्या हैं?

सम्बली महोदय : मे ब्रान्ड्स हैं।

श्री इलहाक सन्मली : इन ग्रांट्स की शर्त क्या है—खर्च के बारे में, इन्तजाम के बारे में कण्डीशन्ज क्या है ?

श्रीमति सुशीला रोहतगी : मान्यवर यह जो शुरू में ही दिया गया है—सारा रूपया ग्रांट की शर्त में आएगा। तमाम चीजों के बारे में एग्जिमेंट हो गया है, केवल फैमिली प्लानिंग बाकी है। दूसरे मुद्दों के मुकाबले में ब्रिटिश-एड की टर्म्ज काफी अच्छी है, सॉफ्टर हैं।

S.T.C.'s contract for purchase of Rayon Grade Pulp from Bulgaria

*255. **SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation contracted for the purchase of rayon grade pulp from Bulgaria at a price higher than the world price for the material; and

(b) whether the users of the pulp are now apprehensive that this import will push up their cost?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) and (b). Contracting for this material was done by the S.T.C. from Bulgaria in its best commercial judgement taking into account the prevailing circumstances.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I believe, the commerce Minister is aware of the IBRD team's suggestions for drastic changes in our fibres consumption pattern. We are importing from Bulgaria pulp to manufacture cellulosic fibres. I understand from some of the reports that there is enough idle pulp manufacturing capacity in the country also. In spite of that, the Ministry has gone for higher-priced imports. The recent findings of the IBRD team have provided valuable material for framing our fibre policy. The total consumption is expected to be 12-13

lakh tonnes of fibre in this year. Under these circumstances, could the Hon. Minister assure the House that, on the one hand, he would permit the (excess) surplus of cotton fibre to be exported and, on the other hand, he would reduce the import of pulp to produce cellulosic fibres.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: We import this bulk filament and some materials for type cord because of the specific requirements of the country's industrial units. We export cotton because, within a given time, if particular types of cotton cannot be commercially utilised in the country, there is no use holding stock while the next season's cotton is coming into the market, thereby depressing the price further. So, we have to take into view the requirements of synthetic fibre units in the country and also the requirements for exports outside. I don't find any incompatibility between the two

SHRI D. D. DESAI: This pulp, as I had mentioned, is imported to produce fibres and fibres are required for clothing the people. Some preferences of the people are established and, to that extent, a pattern is accepted, whether it is polyester or synthetic or cotton or whatever the exact nature of fibre may be. The Hon'ble Minister has stated that the import was necessary to meet the demands. I have mentioned in my initial statement that there has been surplus production capacity within the country for producing cellulosic pulp. Now the Hon. Minister has said that we are allowing cotton to be exported and we accept the reason he has given. But, in any case, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the report of the IBRD which has commented very adversely or, rather, critically, on our pattern of preferences and the method by which they are loading certain cellulosic textiles and fibres. For example, cotton is sold, according to the IBRD, at 75 per cent of the price of the United States and so on.

[Shri D. D. Desai]

The purpose of this long statement of mine is to request the Hon. Minister to make his statement clear-cut as to what is his fibre policy. How does he look at the total requirement of fibre? Actually, taking the demand into consideration, I would request him to permit export of three lakh tons of cotton, for which excellent potential exists in the country.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I understand the larger policy interests that the Hon. Member has at the back of his mind, but within the limited framework of the question he put before me, I can only say that cotton export—as he himself knows and for which he himself asked for in the past,—has been partly agreed to. But we cannot allow more cotton to be exported by reducing the availability of cotton supply which is very badly necessary for the textile units in the country because, thereby the price of textiles will go up, making it difficult for the consumers to have them at reasonable prices.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to import of pulp from Bulgaria and we will confine ourselves to this and not go on to the larger policies.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether any quantity of rayon pulp has been imported now from any other country and, if so, how does the price compare with the price of Bulgaria.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: Ordinarily, we intend to import this sort of pulp which is necessary for filament yarn and also for tyre cord, from Canada. But the fund necessary for that account was not available, so we purchased it from the rupee area because the Finance Ministry was not in a position to release general currency exchange for this purpose. So we had to opt for Bulgaria or some East European source. It is true that we had to pay a little higher price, but in another way we tried to compensate the difficulties of

the industry by waiving the service charge of the STC. Under the circumstances, we thought that it was the best we could do.

Banking Service Commission

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*257. **SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA:**
PROF. NARAIN CHAND
PARASHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banking Service Commission has been constituted; and

(b) if so, the composition of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Banking Service Commission has not yet been established.

SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA: The assent to the Bill which was passed by both Houses of Parliament was given by the President on 7-8-1975. About five months have elapsed. May I know the reason why there has been so much of delay in constituting this Commission? Secondly, I want to know whether this Act has come into force at all.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I do admit that there has been some delay in establishing the Banking Service Commission, but I can assure the hon. Member and, through you, the House, Sir, that we are taking steps to establish the Commission as early as possible. It has been laid down in the Act itself. If the Commission is not set up, how can the Act come into force?

SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA: Unless the Act comes into force, the Commission cannot be set up. But the Minister says that, unless the Commission is set up, the Act will not come into force. That is a point for consideration.

Secondly I want to know whether there is a proposal to open regional offices of the Commission in different parts of the country

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKH ERJEE As I have already mentioned—perhaps, the hon Member has misunderstood me—the whole purpose of the Banking Service Commission Act is to establish a Banking Service Commission and to allow them to function. Unless and until we can have the commission and we are in a position to establish the Commission the Act will not come into operation. That is what I meant. It can be done by notification by the Government and as soon as possible we shall try to do it.

Regarding the other part of the question, in the Act itself there are various provisions, and we had the opportunity of discussing the Bill. Regarding representation from the various parts which the hon Member has mentioned this will be taken care of when the Commission is actually established.

PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR Keeping in view the circumstances under which the Banking Service Commission Bill was piloted here and a recommendation made for the establishment of a Banking Service Commission—which only cast in adverse remark on the recruitment policy of the Banks followed so far—may I know through you Sir, from the hon Minister whether the interests of Scheduled Castes and backward classes and ex-servicemen will be safeguarded by agreeing to the principle of having at least one Member from the ex-servicemen side and one Member from the Scheduled Castes and backward Classes on this Commission. As a matter of fact the report of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Committee has declared that their representation in the banking services has been very low.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKH ERJEE I do agree with the hon Mem-

ber, sometimes we are getting complaints about non recruitment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the present recruitment system. But, by and large we are instructing the nationalised banks to follow the Government's directions in this behalf.

Regarding nomination of Members belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and ex-servicemen in the Commission this is a suggestion which we have also received. But I cannot make any commitment on behalf of the Government just at this moment.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA One of the reasons for the failure of the branches of the nationalised banks has been that proper personnel could not be provided for running those banks. The recruitments used to be made by the Head Offices and there used to be so much of delay that the branches would not start functioning for a long time. Is it now proposed that this power of recruitment would be delegated to regional commissions of the Banking Service Commission so that quicker appointments may be made for the expanding banking services?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKH ERJEE The recruitments will be made through the Banking Service Commission. Regarding smoother functioning of the Commission, they may have regional offices and regional recruitment centres.

SHRI K. I. AKKAPPA After the nationalisation of the banks, the failure lies on the part of the officers who were recruited by the Custodians of the Banks. Still the same officers are operating in various nationalised banks. Therefore in the absence of any Service Commission, the entire programmes and policies, including giving of loans have not been properly followed, patronage has been shown to the kith and kin of the people who are holding the custody of the banks. For proper implementation of the pro-

gramme announced by the Prime Minister, it is very necessary that these Banking Service Commissions are set up in various States. In view of the urgency of the matter, will the hon. Minister assure that a time-bound programme will be laid down for this purpose?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So far as the second part of the question is concerned, we are trying to establish the Commission as early as possible. Regarding the first part of the question, I do not agree with the hon. Member that the nationalised banks have failed miserably and that they are not doing anything to promote the economy of the country.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Is the Minister aware that in the absence of the constitution of the Banking Commission, the managements in the banks are making appointments arbitrarily and they are not doing justice to backward classes and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes? If so, what action has been taken by Government to check this mal-practice?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So far as new recruitment is concerned, they are giving preference to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as per the directions of the Government. But at the same time, before nationalisation when there was no systematic policy about recruitment, in comparison to the total staff, the percentage may be very low. Still whenever we get complaints about it, we look into these and that is why we are establishing the Banking Commission to systematise the recruitment.

श्री शशि भूषण : मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से हमारा बैंकिंग कामप्लेक्स बढ़ रहा है, उस को देखते हुए, जैसे कि आई० ए० एस० और आई० पी० एस० की सविसेज है, बैंकिंग सविसेज बनाने की भी आप कोई योजना बना रहे हैं। इसके साथ-साथ

जो बैंड प्रार्थनाइजेसन्ज जैसे कि ग्रार० एस० एस०, नक्सेलाइड्स, ग्रानन्वगार्गी और जवा-यते इस्लामी इनके लोग इन बैंकों में काम कर रहे हैं, जोकि 20 सूक्ष्म कार्यक्रम के विपरीत काम कर रहे हैं, उन को निकालने के लिए आपने क्या योजना बनाई है ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: If some specific information is given, we can act upon that.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: At present, the Indian private banks have got deposits of 1263 crores and the foreign-owned banks have got 859 crores. I would like to know, whether apart from the nationalised banks, the Government is also considering to streamline the management and services of these foreign-owned banks also and if any hindrance is found in that, is it proposed to nationalise them?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So far as recruitment by Banking Service Commission is concerned, that is related to nationalised banks, it relates neither to foreign banks nor to Indian private banks

High Rate of Interest for Bank Credits

*258. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that unemployed graduates and engineers are complaining of high rate of interest for bank credits which is hampering rapid industrialisation and consequent employment and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to reduce the rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Since, 1973-74, Government and the Reserve Bank of India have taken a series of measures with a view to containing inflationary pressures in the economy and holding the price line. These measures aim at restricting the expansion of money supply and bank credit and channelising the available bank funds, on a selective basis, for meeting the genuine needs of production and investment, exports and the priority sector including unemployed graduates and engineers, on the basis of well-defined national priorities. As essential element of these measures has been to make credit dearer so that it is utilised only for genuine needs and to make savings and bank deposits more attractive by providing a higher rate of interest on deposits. Consequently, the minimum lending rate fixed by the Reserve Bank of India which governs the rate of interest charged by banks on their advances, has been raised from 11 per cent to 12½ per cent with effect from July, 1974. However, the Reserve Bank of India have specifically exempted from the provisions of the minimum lending rate directive certain categories of advances such as advances upto Rs. 2 lakhs granted to small scale industrial units and covered under the Credit Guarantee Scheme, loans and advances upto specified limits granted to transport operators, agriculturists and small businessmen, retail traders, etc., and covered by the Small loans Guarantee Scheme of the Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd, advances for exports and advances under the scheme of differential rates of interest, etc. If the assistance provided by banks to unemployed graduates and engineers falls within the exempted category of advances as specified above, banks generally provide such assistance on concessional rates of interest as against the prescribed minimum lending rate of 12½ per cent.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA It is true that the Reserve Bank had followed the policy of making credit dearer in

1973-74 and that was correct also and that has helped our national economy. That was with a view to restrict the capacity of the wholesalers, manipulators and hoarders. Here, the question relates to aiding the small-scale industries so that national production could be helped to advance. Here, the reply is that that very policy applies to this sector. Here, I would like to know whether the Government do propose that the unemployed engineers, graduates and others who resort to their own self-managed industries, are going to get bank credit at the preferential rates of interest and if so, the quantum of the limit that the Government want to fix for that.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE In the statement also I have mentioned that upto Rs 2 lakhs they are entitled to have concessional rates. But, here, in this matter, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member that apart from these types of concessional rates, in respect of the term loans given by the financial institutions in the areas which are notified by the Planning Commission as Backward Areas, they are entitled to have concessional rates of interest from the financial institutions on term loans. But, regarding these types of loans on concessional rates, the limit is Rs. 2 lakhs.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA What is the concessional rate? Is it 11 per cent of the preferential rate of interest? That was the question.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE That will depend upon the merits of the case. I cannot say it. But it is below 12½ per cent.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Perhaps he could not understand my question...

MR. SPEAKER Now, your second supplementary

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA. Second supplementary I ask. But that also I want to know. The preferential rates

of interest relate to the credit policy of the Government. So, I want to know whether these unemployed graduates even within the limit of Rs. 2 lakhs are going to get bank credit at the preferential rates of interest or not.

Secondly, in the whole of the country including the backward areas as notified by Planning Commission and accepted by the Reserve Bank, are the graduates or even uneducated persons who are running small scale industries going to get loans at the preferential rates of interest or not? It is not a question of an individual case. It is a question of policy to be adopted for this sector, the small-scale sector for the country as a whole

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So far as the policy is concerned, I have already indicated that the small-scale industries are entitled to have it, but regarding the quantum of interest rates, it depends on the viability of the projects and certain other factors also. That is why it is not possible for me. But the policy is there

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: rose.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered. He does not want to give more than what he has said.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: In the statement, the concessional rate means 11 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: He does not want to give more information than what he has already given. What can I do?

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: The hon. Minister has mentioned about the concessional rate of interest for small-scale industries and unemployed graduates. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any concession has been given in the margin on the advances made to these sectors—small-scale industry, medium-scale industry and industries in backward areas.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I could not follow the question. If he can kindly explain the question I can answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Concession in the margin. Do you provide more or less margin than for others?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: No.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will he consider it? For the small scale industry the margin is very high and they cannot get the necessary money.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि देश के कमजोर वर्गों के लोगो ने और खास तौर से ग्राम इण्डिया बीवर्स फेडरेशन ने सरकार से क्या इस बात की माग की है कि बुनकरों को जो बैंकों से कर्ज दिये जाते हैं, उन के सूद की दर 4 परसेन्ट रखी जाए? अगर यह बात सच है और सरकार की जानकारी में यह आई है, तो इसके बारे में मंत्री जी का क्या कहना है?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So many representations are coming for concessional rate of interest. Keeping the overall position we shall have to take a decision. I cannot react in this way.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Hon. Minister is not understanding the question. The concessional rate is 11 per cent whereas the preferential rate is 4 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: He will understand now.

Disclosures under Voluntary Disclosure Scheme

*261. **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE please to state

(a) whether the persons making disclosure of hidden wealth under Volun-

tary Disclosure Scheme included those persons against whom huge amount of taxes are outstanding; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b). As per information presently available, 2,58,750 declarations have been made under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Ordinance, 1975, including 13,400 declarations under section 15(1) in respect of net wealth/value of assets not disclosed or understated.

Statistics showing taxes outstanding from persons who have made the declarations are not separately maintained. The requisite information will have to be collected from the Commissioners of Income-tax who will have to scrutinise the records in respect of each declarant. Time and energy necessary for collecting the information may not be commensurate with results achieved. As such, it is not possible to furnish the information.

श्री शशि भूषण मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितना एमाउन्ट है जो अभी तक टैक्स डिफाल्टर्स ने नहीं दिया है? वह कई करोड़ में होगा। यह आप बताएँ। वह एमाउन्ट कितने लोगों ने बालेटेरिली डिस्कलोज किया है जो बेनामी या दूसरी शक्ल में है और वह एमाउन्ट कितना है। आज मेरे बीस तीस साल पहले जो सोना पचास हजार का था वह उन्होंने डिक्लेयर कर दिया और आप ने उस पर टैक्स ले लिया लेकिन आप देखें कि आज की कीमत के हिसाब से उन्होंने सात साठे सात लाख रुपया व्हाइट कर लिया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस ढंग की चीजों की आप कसे जाँच करेंगे, उसका क्या तरीका है?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE. I hope the hon. member will appreciate that as the total number of declarants is 2,58,000, it is not possible at the moment to find out the quantum of tax arrears in the case of all the persons. I can assure the hon. member that if any body has made some declaration and he is in tax arrears, nothing prevents us under the declaration scheme to realise the arrears from him out of the assets which he has declared. But it is not possible to give the statistical figure of how many persons have so, in what respect and what is the quantum.

श्री शशि भूषण : मैं क्लेरिफाई करना चाहता हूँ। मान लें एक साहब ने चार पाँच करोड़ टैक्स देना है। उसने कहा कि आज से तीस साल पहले मेरे पिता ने पाँच लाख का सोना दिया और पाँच लाख पर उससे आपने बालेटेरी डिक्लोजर में टैक्स ले लिया। लेकिन आज की कीमत पर आपने नहीं लिया। अब पाँच लाख की कीमत आज पचास लाख हो गई है। इस तरह से उसने पचास लाख को व्हाइट कर लिया और इतना पर टैक्स दिया नहीं। मैं गरीब आदमी की बात नहीं करता हूँ। इस तरह के लोगों की तादाद लाखों में नहीं है। दो चार सौ आदिमी ही ऐसे होंगे। जब आप जाँच करें तो इसका भी ध्यान रखें यही मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE. It is just a suggestion. I can keep it in view. I cannot tell that now.

श्री० नारायण चन्द पराशर मंत्री जी ने फरमाया है कि टाइम एंड एनर्जी इतने किसिम के लिए लगाना मुश्किल है शायद वह बराबर न हो। कुछ ऐसे भी किसिम होते हैं जो इनकम टैक्स न देने के लिए कोर्ट्स में जाते हैं, ऐसेमेंमेंट को चैलेंज करते हैं। क्या उन किसिम के बारे

में भापको कोई स्पेसिफिक जानकारी है ?
 अब जो वॉलेंटरी डिक्लारेटर के केसिज
 हैं क्या भाप बता सकते हैं कि उनमें ऐसे
 कितने लोग हैं जिन्होंने मुकदमें इस तरह
 के दायर कर रखे थे ताकि टैक्स न देना
 पड़े या उसको प्रोलोंग किया जाय ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Many times we have given the figures about the total quantum of tax arrears and what steps we are taking to realise those taxes and what amount is involved in big cases. But the figures are readily not available with me.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: In view of the fact that Government is supposed to keep a special eye on those who are evading huge amount of tax as outstanding against them, their number cannot be more than a few hundreds and those figures have been given from time to time, how is it on the ground that a large number of people are involved and too much labour is involved. Government cannot isolate these cases of money bags in this country and tell Parliament whether or not, and to what extent, they are taking advantage of the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme? Their number cannot be too large and they know it.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I am sorry if I have been misunderstood on this point. I did not say that I do not act on it, I certainly act on it. I only said that the figure is not readily available with me. If I have found out that somebody had made a declaration, I know the amount also; I also see the assets and I can relate the tax to that figure. And with regard to the valuation of the assets, I will take the present valuation. I would not go if the declaration is made on the basis of past valuation but I would like to go by present valuation. But as I said it is not possible for me to say how many peo-

ple out of 2.58 lakh declarants are in tax arrears and to what extent. But, as I said, I would act on it.

पटना सिटी का पर्यटक केन्द्र के रूप में विकास

*263. श्री रामावतार झाखी :
 क्या पर्यटक और नागर विमानन मंत्री
 यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि : ६.६

(क) क्या गुरु गोविन्द सिंह का
 जन्म स्थान पटना सिटी में है ; ६.६

(ख) यदि हाँ तो, क्या इसका पर्यटक
 केन्द्र के रूप में विकास करने का कोई
 प्रस्ताव है ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी मुख्य बातें
 क्या हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
 MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL
 AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAI
 SINGH). (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). Patna is the birth place of Guru Gobind Singh and has its importance on that account. At the same time is a base for visiting Buddhist centres in Bihar. Besides there are several points of tourist interest in Patna itself. Patna is, therefore, already attracting tourists. In order to provide suitable accommodation, a Reception Centre cum-Motel is under construction by the India Tourism Development Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 lakhs. A transport unit has also been set up at Patna by ITDC at a cost of Rs. 50,000. In addition, M/s. Bihar Hotels have been sanctioned a loan of Rs. 37 lakhs under the Hotel Develop-

ment Loan Scheme for the construction of a hotel at Patna.

श्री रविशंकर शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय आप मेरे प्रश्न को देखें। मैंने पटना मिटी के बारे में पूछा था, इन्होंने पूरे पटने के बारे में बना दिया है। पटना सिटी पटने टाउन का एक हिस्सा है जहाँ पर गुरु गोविन्द सिंह का जन्म हुआ था और जहाँ गुरुद्वारा भी है तथा और भी कई पुरानी ऐतिहासिक चीजें हैं। इस इलाके में पर्यटकों के लिये सुविधाएँ बढ़ाने की माँग की बात मैंने सूची की। आपने पूरे पटना के बारे में बताया है। इन में ज्यादातर चीजें पटना सिटी में सम्बन्ध नहीं रखती हैं। यह गड़बड़ी बराबर होती है। अध्यक्ष महोदय आप वहाँ के रहने वाले हैं और आप अधिक जानते हैं। जहाँ गुरुद्वारा है जो सिटी का एगिया है, जो पटना टाउन के अन्दर है उस एगिया में सुविधाएँ बढ़ाने के सम्बन्ध में क्या आपके पास कोई योजना है और इसके बारे में क्या बड़ा गुरु गोविन्द सिंह के गुरुद्वारे की जो प्रबन्धन समिति है उसने बार-बार आपके पास आपन सेशन है? यदि हाँ तो उसके बारे में क्या आती की कोई योजना है अगर है तो बताएँ नहीं है तो भी बताएँ।

श्री सुरेशचन्द्र सिंह : हमारे यहाँ दो तरह की स्कीम है। एक तो वे हैं जो इंटरनेशनल टूरिस्ट्स की सुविधाओं के लिए होती हैं। और दूसरी डॉमेस्टिक टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा देने के लिए होती है। गुरुद्वारे की बात मान लें सदस्य ने कही है, उसके लिये उस एगिया को डिवेलप करेंगे या उसके बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं। यह चीज डॉमेस्टिक टूरिज्म के अन्तर्गत आती है और इसमें स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का सम्बन्ध है। पटना का जिक्र मैंने इसलिये किया है कि वह काफी बड़ा मोन इंटरनेशनल टूरिज्म सेंटर है और वहाँ जो भी सुविधाएँ हम देना कर रहे हैं वह इंटरनेशनल टूरिस्ट्स के लिए ही मुख्यतः कर रहे हैं।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Demand made by Maharashtra Government under Cotton Procurement Scheme

*247. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total credit demand by the Maharashtra Government to purchase cotton under their Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme for the years 1974-75 and 1975-76;

(b) the reaction of Central Government thereto;

(c) the amount approved and released by the Central Government upto date; and

(d) what further steps are taken/proposed at the Central Government level to ensure success of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

For the year 1974-75, Government of Maharashtra had approached Reserve Bank of India for arranging credit of the order of Rs. 120 crores, for implementing the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme by Maharashtra State Co-operative Marketing Federation (MSCMF). Reserve Bank of India sanctioned a credit limit of Rs. 20 crores to Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) and also permitted it to grant out of its own resources an additional sum of Rs. 20 crores, in all making available to MSCMF Rs. 40 crores from cooperative banking system. In addition to what was provided in this manner, the MSCMF had recourse to further resources of Rs. 25 crores—Rs. 15 crores out of its own funds and a sum of Rs. 10 crores provided to it by State Government.

Government of Maharashtra have been discussing with Reserve Bank of India and Government of India the credit facilities to be provided for the operation of the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme during 1975-76. For the year 1975-76, RBI has sanctioned a credit limit of Rs. 20 crores to the MSCB for financing Monopoly Procurement Scheme and has also permitted it to finance the scheme upto a further limit of Rs. 20 crores out of its own resources.

To enable the MSCMF to tide over temporary financial difficulties, commercial banks have also sanctioned a credit limit of Rs. 18 crores to the Federation upto 31st January, 1976 besides a packing credit limit for export of cotton upto a maximum of Rs. 15 crores till 31st March, 1976.

Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme being a State Scheme its implementation is the responsibility of the State Government. Since the scheme is implemented through a co-operative agency, the credit support has to be mainly from the cooperative system. Having regard to the resources of commercial banks and competing demands on them, the assistance from commercial banks to the scheme of this type can at best be only of a marginal character.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourists

*252. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much foreign exchange has been earned as a result of visit by foreign tourists to this country since the declaration of emergency; and

(b) what facilities have been provided to foreign tourists during their stay in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during July—December, 1975 on the basis of current price levels is estimated at Rs. 56.5 crores. This is exclusive of the foreign exchange revenue earned by Air India and Indian Airlines on payment of fares by international passengers.

(b) The provision of tourist facilities is a continuous process. The emphasis in the Central Sector has been on the building up of tourist infrastructure (accommodation and transport), provision of recreational, entertainment and sight-seeing facilities and production of tourist literature. For this purpose, an outlay of Rs. 78 crores has been provided in the Central Sector.

Deposits in and Credits advanced by Nationalised and other Banks

*253. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the latest position of the 14 banks nationalised and those left in the private sector including foreign banks in July 1969, with regard to the total deposits and credits advanced and how does it compare with the figures for July, 1969?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Data regarding deposits and advances of the public sector banks, including the 14 nationalised banks, and the

private sector scheduled commercial banks in India as on the last Friday

of June 1969 and December 19, 1975 are set out below:—

(Rs. crores)

	Deposits		Advances	
	June, 1969	19th Dec., 1975*	June, 1969	19th Dec., 1975*
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
A. Public Sector Banks	3871	11264	3017	8168
(i) SBI Group	1239	3816	1185	2826
(ii) 14 Nationalised Banks	2632	7448	1832	5342
B. Private Sector Banks	775	2122	582	1417
(i) Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks	297	1263	197	808
(ii) Foreign Banks	478	859	385	609
All Scheduled Commercial Banks (A+B)	4646	13386	3599	9585

*Provisional.

Rubber Production

*256. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a slump in rubber production and its export; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). There is no slump in rubber production. Since rubber is not normally being exported, the question of slump in its export does not arise.

Export of Silver

*259. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped silver export temporarily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much Government have earned from silver export in 1974-75?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Silver amounting to Rs. 89,29,38,581 has been exported out of India during the year 1974-75.

Research Unit of Civil Aviation Department

*260. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research Unit of Civil Aviation Department helps in glider production in a big way;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether any country has asked India to produce gliders for export?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The Research and Development Directorate of the Civil Aviation Department has designed and developed prototypes, and on the basis of the design drawings developed by the Directorate, large number of gliders have been produced in the country.

(b) The Research and Development Directorate has so far designed and developed eight types of gliders and sailplanes, and in all has produced 31 prototypes. Three of the prototypes viz. 'Intermediary trainer glider', 'Ashvini' and 'Rohini' were taken up for quantity production by two private companies and by the HAL Kanpur, in the public sector. In all about 205 gliders have so far been produced in the country based on the design-drawings developed by the Research and Development Directorate.

(c) No, Sir.

Implementation of the Suggestions made by Barooah Committee

*262. **DR. RANEN SEN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Barooah Committee has suggested that 7000 hectares should be replanted with tea plants every year; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to implement this suggestion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The P.C. Barooah Committee recommended in 1968 that the general aim should be to undertake now planting at the rate of 3 per cent of the total area annually, in the form of replanting, replacements and/or extension, depending on individual needs, with good planting material.

(b) In pursuance of the aforesaid recommendation, a Replantation Subsidy Scheme was introduced in October 1968. The Scheme provides financial assistance to the estates undertaking uprooting and replantation. This was in addition to the Tea Plantation Finance Scheme already in operation since 1961-62 which provided for grant of loan to tea estates at the rate of Rs. 11250 per hectare for gardens in the plains and Rs. 13750 for gardens in the Hills for carrying out extension/replanting. With effect from 1-10-75, the Replantation Subsidy Scheme has been extended to include rejuvenation and consolidation of existing tea areas. Under this, subsidy at the rate of Rs. 3,000 per hectare for rejuvenation and infilling and at the rate of Rs. 4,000 per hectare for rejuvenation, infilling and inter-planting is admissible, for the tea estates in hilly areas only.

Purchase of Jute from Growers

*264. **SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Jute is being purchased from the growers at reasonable prices by Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Jute Corporation of India purchases jute through its own Departmental purchase Centres and through Co-operative Societies of jute growers. Statutory minimum prices are fixed by Government on the recommendation of the Agricultural Prices Commission which takes into account all relevant factors including the provision of a remunerative return to the growers. The statutory minimum price for Assam Bottom variety in the up-country markets was fixed at Rs. 125 per quintal in the 1974-75 season and at Rs. 135 per quintal for the current season. The Jute Corporation of India purchases jute at the statutory minimum

price or at the higher prevalent market price, to the extent permitted by the funds at its disposal. For the current season Reserve Bank of India has agreed to a cash credit of Rs. 24 crores for the Jute Corporation of India, and Government have assured the Corporation of additional funds for price support operations if necessary. So far the Corporation has purchased 5.78 lakh bales in the current season, out of which 5.65 lakh bales have been purchased either at the minimum price or at a price up to Rs. 5 above the minimum.

Economy Measures in Indian Airlines

*265. SHRI N K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state-

(a) whether Indian Airlines had initiated some economy measures to avert an estimated loss of Rs. 16.5 crores for the year 1974-75; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the measures and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The economy measures undertaken by the Indian Airlines included reduction in overtime payments, rationalisation of shift system, reduction in crew night stops, curtailment of some of the heavily unprofitable services, stepping up of utilisation of staff and aircraft and control on fresh recruitment. As a result of these economy measures and tightening up of productivity measures, it has been possible for the Indian Airlines to convert the anticipated loss of Rs. 16.50 crores during 1974-75 into a profit of Rs. 1.01 crores.

कोयले का निर्यात

1086. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1976-77 में भारत किन देशों को कोयला निर्यात करेगा ;

(ख) वर्ष 1975-76 में दिसम्बर 1975 तक किन-कोयला निर्यात किया गया ; और

(ग) कोयले के निर्यात से क्या प्राय हुई ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) बंगलादेश, यमो तथा श्री लंका ।

(ख) और (ग). 1975-76 (दिसम्बर, 1975 तक) के दौरान लगभग 13.42 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य के 3 30 लाख मे० टन कोयले का निर्यात हुआ ।

Role of Banks in implementing Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme

1087. SHRI C K CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a symposium on the role of banks in implementing the Prime Minister's 20-point Economic Programme;

(b) if so, whether any evaluation of banking system and its structure and operation in relation to giving credit to rural masses for the implementation of Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme has been made; and

(c) whether in view of this re-appraisal Government has decided to give bank credit to rural poor in more effective and simpler way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) To provide an opportunity to the bankers for exchange of views and to discuss the role of banks in implementing the Prime Minister's Twenty-Point Economic Programme, the Bankers' Club, Delhi, had organised a symposium at New Delhi, on November 16, 1975.

(b) and (c). The procedures and practices relating to lending operations of the public sector banks are being continually kept under review with a view to ensuring larger flow of credit into neglected sectors, particularly in the rural areas. The public sector banks have been specifically asked to review the existing structure of delegation of loan sanctioning powers and to secure final disposal of small loan proposals, involving credit limits of less than Rs. 10,000, within a period of two months from the date of their receipt. Eight Regional Rural Banks sponsored by the public sector banks have been set up so far with a view to developing rural economy by providing credit and other facilities to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs. The public sector banks have also reported that they have taken up measures and evolved suitable programmes for facilitating flow of bank credit to the small scale productive ventures of the weaker sections of the society in the rural areas.

Commercial Transactions between India and USSR

1088. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the volume and the amount of commercial transactions, between India and Russia during the year 1975;

(b) currency used for such transactions as well as the amounts of barter transaction;

(c) value of rupee fixed for exchange with rouble for such transaction; and

(d) whether same rate was accepted during the year 1973, 1974 and 1975?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):
(a) The exact volume and amount of

commercial transactions between India and Russia during the year 1975 is not yet known. The total trade turn-over between the two countries during 1975 is expected to be of the order of 650 crores.

(b) Indian rupee is used for commercial transactions. There is no barter transaction as such. All transactions are settled in non-convertible Indian rupees on the basis of a clearing account system.

(c) and (d). The contracts are by and large expressed in Indian rupees. In cases where the value of contracts is expressed in roubles, conversion of rouble into the Indian rupee is made at the official rate of exchange, which is Rouble 1 = Rs. 8.33. This rate of exchange is in force since 6th June, 1966.

Reconstruction of Konark with Assistance of UNESCO

1089. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the feasibility of reconstructing Konark with the help of technical and financial assistance from UNESCO; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter from the beginning of the year 1976?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). It has been ascertained from the Archaeological Survey of India that there is no proposal to reconstructing the Sun temple at Konark with financial assistance from the UNESCO.

The Department of Tourism, however, has commissioned the preparation of a master plan of the area surrounding the Sun temple at Konark with a view to preserving the natural environment of the temple.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Backward and Rural Areas

1090. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued to different nationalised banks to open their branches in the backward and rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, number of branches opened in the backward districts of Orissa in the years 1974-75 and 1975-76 and proposal for the year 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) Reserve Bank of India have advised all the commercial banks that while drawing up three year rolling plans for branch expansion, they should give special attention to unbanked and under-banked rural and semi-urban areas and under-banked and backward Districts, States and Union Territories, especially in the Eastern and North Eastern Regions and endeavour to open as many offices in those areas as possible so that the inter-district and inter-State disparities in the matter of provision of banking facilities are progressively reduced and the growth potential of the country as a whole adequately exploited.

(b) Reserve Bank of India have reported that during the years 1974 and 1975 (upto November, 30, 1975), public sector banks had opened 8 offices and 11 offices respectively in the backward districts of Balasore, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Boudh Khondmals. The Reserve Bank of India have also reported that as at the end of November 1975, public sector banks had on hand 40 licences/allotments for opening branches in these districts. Districtwise details are set out in the attached statement.

Branch expansion work is undertaken by the banks within the framework of three year rolling plans. The Reserve Bank are currently examining the branch expansion plans of the public sector banks for the three years 1976-78.

Statement

Branches opened by public sector banks in backward districts of Orissa during 1974 and 1975 (upto Nov. 1975) and licences/allotments pending with them on November 30, 1975 for opening branches in these districts.

Name of the District	No. of branches opened in		Licences in hand at the end of Nov. 1975.
	1974	1975 (upto Nov. 30, 1975)	
Balasore . .	1	1	6
Bolangir . .	2	1	6
Boudh Khondmals . .	..	1	5
Dhenkanal . .	..	1	4
Keonjhar . .	1	..	4
Koraput . .	1	4	8
Kalahandi . .	..	2	..
Mayurbhanj . .	3	1	7
	8	11	40

Rationalisation of Air Traffic

1091. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) on how many air routes in the country nationalisation of air-traffic service was undertaken for effecting economy in the operating costs in the wake of fuel crisis which led to sharp increase in the cost of operation; and

(b) the amount of savings on the cost of fuel to Air India and the Indian Airlines during the last one year due to rationalisation of air-traffic?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR). (a) As a result of rationalisation study of the various air routes over the Indian skies a reduction in the overall route mileage on 14 scheduled routes by approximately 250 nautical miles has been effected

(b) As a result of this rationalisation of the air routes it is estimated that the annual savings will be about Rs. 30 lakhs

**स्वेच्छा प्रकटन योजना के अन्तर्गत
"बांड" खरीदना**

1092. श्री हनुमन्त लाल कछवाय : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने को तैयार करेंगे कि

(क) जिन व्यक्तियों ने स्वेच्छया प्रकटन योजना के अन्तर्गत अपनी आय और सम्पत्ति की घोषणा की है उन्होंने कितने मरकरी बांड 1985 खरीदे हैं, और

(ख) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक को अब खरीद गये बांडों पर 1985 तक कितना व्याज अदा करना पड़ेगा ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : (क) आय और सम्पत्ति स्वेच्छया प्रकटन अध्यादेश 1975 की धारा 3(3) के अनुसार आय और सम्पत्ति घोषित करने वाला द्वारा रुपया लगाए जाने के लिए सरकार ने 1985 में पकने वाले 5½ प्रतिशत बाण्ड अधिस्चित किए थे। उक्त अध्यादेश की धारा 5(4) के अन्तर्गत घोषणा करने वाले व्यक्ति को अपनी आय और सम्पत्ति की घोषणा किए जाने की तारीख से 30 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर इन बाण्डों में हरया लगाना होता है। 15 जनवरी 1976 तक इन बाण्डों में कुल 15 89 करोड़ रुपया लगाए जाने के लिए उन कार्यालयों में

1,00,231 आवेदन पत्र दिए गए जिनमें यह रुपया प्राप्त किया जाना है।

(ख) इन बाण्डों पर हरया लगाए जाने की तारीख से लेकर इनके पकने की तारीख अर्थात् 20 अक्टूबर 1985 तक 5½ प्रतिशत वार्षिक ब दर से व्याज दिया जाएगा।

Assistance from International Monetary Fund under Oil Facility Fund

1093 **SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of India propose to urge upon the IMF to continue assistance from the Oil Facility Fund during the year 1976 at its interim Committee's meeting in Jamaica, and

(b) on what heads the amount received from IMF under Oil Facility Fund was spent in 1975?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) (a) Though India would have liked the continuance of IMF Oil Facility the matter was not raised at the Interim Committee meeting in Jamaica in view of lack of agreement even among the developing countries and the known opposition of the developed countries to such an extension

(b) The amount drawn under the Oil Facility is balance of payment support and generally helps to meet the foreign exchange requirements of the country and particularly the additional cost involved in the import of petroleum and petroleum products

देश में कपास की खरीद का एकाधिकार लेने का प्रस्ताव

1094 श्री राज हेडगाव : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की तैयार करेंगे कि सरकार का विचार देश में कपास की

बरीद के लिये एक विकार प्राप्त करने का है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : जी नहीं।

Import of Raw Cashewnuts

1095. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of raw cashewnuts imported during the last three years and the total export of processed cashewnuts in the corresponding period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): The quantity of raw cashewnuts imported into India and the cashew kernels exported from India during the last three years is as under:

Year	Import of raw cashewnuts, (qty. in thousand tonnes)	Export of cashew kernels (qty. in thousand tonnes)
1972-73	198	66
1973-74	150	52
1974-75	160	65

Joint Ventures in Thailand

1096. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government have given sanction to Hada Steel Products Ltd. to set up joint ventures in Thailand for manufacture of hacksaw blades?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): The Government have accorded the approval in February, 1975 to the proposal of M/s. Hada Steel Products Ltd, Faridabad, for setting up, as a joint venture in Thailand, a plant for the manufacture of hacksaw blades (cutting tools).

Loans given by S.B.I. to Private Sector Firms

1097. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three big private sector firms are alleged to have "eaten up" Rs. 25 crores given to them as loans by the State Bank of India;

(b) whether Government are aware that these firms are now keen on going "sick"; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Government have seen a newspaper report on the subject that appeared some weeks ago. As the report however did not give any details necessary for taking follow-up action, Government are not in a position to offer any comments on the report.

केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारियों को दिया गया मकान किराया

1098. श्री मूलचन्द डागा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बनाने को कृपा करेंगे कि मकान किराये के रूप में केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारियों को इस समय प्रति वर्ष कितनी राशि दी जाती है और दिल्ली में रहने वाले कर्मचारियों को ऐसी कितनी राशि दी गई है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : वर्ष 1974-75 के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारियों को लगभग 72 करोड़ रुपये की राशि मकान किराया भत्ते के रूप में भेजा की गई है। दिल्ली में रहने वाले कर्मचारियों को भेजा जाए मकान किराया भत्ते के सम्बन्ध में प्रत्येक

से सूचना तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है। यह इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Preparatory Meeting of Commonwealth Experts Group

1099. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commonwealth Experts Group had a three day preparatory meeting where they laid down guidelines on the items to pave the way for a new international economic order;

(b) if so, an account thereof; and

(c) the names of the Commonwealth countries who had attended this meeting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is perhaps referring to the meeting of the Commonwealth Experts Group held in London from 19th December 1975. This meeting was a preparatory one concerned only with drawing out the Experts Groups' future work programme and not for the purpose of laying down any guidelines. The next meeting of the Commonwealth Experts Group is scheduled to be held in Ibadan, Nigeria sometime in February 1976. The Experts Group is expected to continue to hold meetings from time to time until 1977.

(c) The Commonwealth Experts Group is not an Inter Governmental body and its members were selected in their personal capacities and function as such and do not represent their countries. The 1st of member of the Commonwealth Experts Group is given below;

H.E. Mr. Alister McIntyre Chairman
Professor A.D. Brownlie . (New Zealand)
Professor Nurul Islam . (Bangladesh)

Amir H. Jamal . (Tanzania)
H.E. Mr. P.S. Lai . (Malaysia)
Mr. L.M. Lishomwa . (Zambia)
Sir Donald Maitland . (Britain)
Shri Sharad S. Marathe . (India)
Professor H.M.A. Onitiri . (Nigeria)
H.E. Mr. L.A.H. Smith (Canada)
Mr. J.P. Hayes . Secretary

Formation of an Organisation by Iron Ore Exporting Countries

1100. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether iron ore exporting countries have formed their organisation or association to facilitate effective collective bargaining;

(b) if so, the number of countries which have signed the agreement; and

(c) the total number of iron ore exporting countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) An Association of Iron Ore Exporting Countries has been formed for bringing about an orderly and healthy growth of export trade in iron ore, securing fair and remunerative prices for ore exports and ensuring close co-operation among member countries in the matter of exploitation, processing and marketing of iron ore and general economic growth.

(b) Ten.

(c) There are about twenty-five iron ore exporting countries.

Expenditure on Entertainment by I.T.D.O.

1101. SHRI B. S. BHURA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the year-wise total expenditure on enter-

tainment by India Tourism Development Corporation for the last three years and the figures of expenditure incurred by each unit/division of ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): A statement giving the requisite information is attached.

S.No.	Particulars of Unit	Expenditure incurred on entertainment during		
		1974-75	1973-74	1972-73
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Headquarter	31,567	40,558	20,073
2	Project Division	4,458	1,391	3,000
3	Hotel Division	5,352	14,069	3,010
4	Transport	5,337	5,201	2,245
5	Duty Free Shops	2,359	836	
6	Production & Publicity	20,565	13,537	10,000
7	S.E.L. Red Fort	26	62	
8	Regional Office, Bombay	520	10	
9	Ashoka, New Delhi	24,155	33,473	29,355
10	Janpath Hotel, New Delhi	6,411		3,994
11	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	2,318	1,178	52
12	Ranjit Hotel, New Delhi	1,119	871	1,249
13	Hotel Ashoka, Bangalore	497		1,326
14	Akbar Hotel			161
15	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur	429	1,418	
16	Aurangabad Hotel	..	21	
17	Khajuraho Hotel	120	79	
18	Qutab Hotel	11,593		
19	Travellers Lodges	640		115
	TOTAL	1,17,466	1,12,704	74,580

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks

1102. SHRI SOMNATH
CHATTERJEE;
SARDAR SWARAN SINGH
SOKHI;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state how many branches have been opened by the different na-

tionalised banks in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975 respectively—bank-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bank Offices opened in Rural Areas of Eastern and North Eastern States

1103. SHRI TUNA ORAON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of banks opened in rural areas of Eastern and North Eastern States, State-wise, during the last three years, bank-wise; and

(b) the number of bank branches opened or to be opened during the current financial year in these States, State-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) The desired information is set out in Statement-I laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10217/76].

(b) Data reported by the Reserve Bank regarding the licences/allotments pending with the commercial banks as at the end of November, 1975 for opening branches in the States and Union Territories of the Eastern and North Eastern Regions, are set out in Statement-II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10217/76].

Facilities provided by State Transport Authority, Lucknow to I.T.D.C. Vehicles

1104. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.T.D.C. was granted 5 regular bus permits in July, 1974 by the State Transport Authority, Lucknow to ply their vehicles on Agra-Delhi-Agra route;

(b) whether the same facility could not be availed of by the I.T.D.C. and consequently the operation cost of Agra bus is on a very high side to I.T.D.C.; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not availing of such facilities and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (c). In December 1973 the Government of Uttar Pradesh issued notifications authorising the State Transport Authority or the Regional Transport Authority to grant upto a maximum number of 5 permits to India Tourism Development Corporation or any other nominee of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of India, for running air-conditioned vehicles as contract carriages for the purpose of sight-seeing at Varanasi, Lucknow, Agra and on Delhi-Agra-Fatehpur Sikri route. Keeping in view the Seasonal nature of tourist traffic, demand for and availability of airconditioned coaches with the India Tourism Development Corporation, the Corporation requested the State Government to reconsider the matter and grant permits for operation of airconditioned as well as non-airconditioned deluxe coaches. The Government of Uttar Pradesh did not agree to grant permits for non-airconditioned coaches on the ground that Uttar Pradesh Roadways had sufficient number of non-airconditioned deluxe buses and grant of more permits for non-airconditioned coaches could lead to general fall in the standards expected by foreign tourists.

(b) India Tourism Development Corporation is running a non-airconditioned coach service between Delhi and Agra under a permit granted by the State Transport Authority, Delhi on a daily permit fee of Rs. 260. The provisional operating results of this coach for the period April-December, 1975 are as follows:

Income Rs. 5.17 lakhs.
Expenditure Rs. 3.91 lakhs.
Surplus Rs. 1.26 lakhs.

Steps to promote Tourist Traffic

1105. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists who visited the country during 1975;

(b) the estimates of tourist earnings during the above period;

(c) the specific facilities provided or to be provided to attract more tourists during 1976; and

(d) the steps being taken by Air India to step up the promotion of tourist traffic from various countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) 465,275.

(b) The foreign exchange earnings from tourist expenditure in India are estimated at about Rs. 104 crores at current price levels. This is exclusive of the foreign exchange revenue earned by Air-India and Indian Airlines on payment of fares by international passengers.

(c) The provision of facilities for attracting tourists is a continuous process. The emphasis is on providing accommodation and transport facilities, development of selected areas as mountain and beach resorts for attracting a large volume of destination tourist traffic, development of cultural tourism as represented by archaeological and historical monuments and the development of wild life tourism. Several concessional fares have been introduced to develop traffic to India. Besides, the Indian Airlines are offering "Discover India" promotional fares of US \$ 200 for 14 days and \$ 275 for 21 days on their domestic sector. The Indian Railways have also introduced "Travel as You Like" tickets for foreign tourists for

21 days travel. Those tourists arriving without a visa can now get multi-entry landing permits upto 28 days.

(d) Air India is continuously taking steps in various fields to increase the flow of tourist traffic to India as detailed in the attached statement.

Statement

1. Special fares such as excursion fares have been introduced from North America, Australia and the Gulf area, youth fares from France, Switzerland and Italy and inclusive Tour fares from Europe, U.K., Japan and North America.

2. Operations to the oil rich countries of the Gulf area have been increased substantially.

3. Plans to substitute bigger capacity 747 aircraft in place of 707 aircraft on flights to Australia.

4. Special surveys of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep Islands for developing these for tourists were carried out. Air India in collaboration with the Hotel Corporation of India is also investigating the possibilities of building a tourist complex at Bangaram Island in the Lakshadweep.

5. Programme for attracting youth travellers to India has been launched and a youth festival will be held in Delhi in July, 1976.

6. A Congress and Convention Cell has been set up and a number of congresses and conventions are planned.

7. In 1974 a market survey was conducted in the Far East and South East Asian regions to increase Buddhist traffic to India.

8. Air India collaborated in the presentation taken by the ASTA chapter to the U.S.A. and Canada.

as also in the PATA-India chapter audio-visual presentations made in Australia, Japan and the Middle East to promote tourist traffic from these regions.

9. 'Stop-over' tours are being arranged for inducing air travellers to stop-over in India.

10. Air India offices abroad have been arranging educational tours to encourage airlines staff, tour operators and travel agents to pay familiarisation visits to India.

Charging of high prices of Synthetic Yarn from Weavers

1106. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of synthetic yarn are charging high prices from the weavers; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) While there is no information regarding high prices being charged by the nylon filament yarn manufacturers, the prices charged for polyester filament yarn, which is in short supply, are definitely high.

(b) Various measures are under consideration to increase the production of synthetic yarns in the country.

Export of Woollen Garments

1107. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of woollen garments has been stepped up;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether woollen garments export is more in rupee trade countries than in sterling countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Compared to the year 1973-74, the exports of woollen ready-made garments rose from Rs. 90.39 lakhs to Rs. 223.49 lakhs in 1974-75. During the current year (1975-76) also, the trend of exports is towards increase.

(c) No, Sir.

Controlled Cloth Scheme

1108. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state present evaluation of the controlled cloth scheme in respect of production, distribution and prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): While the Statutory Control on production and pricing of certain varieties of mill-made cotton cloth was introduced in October, 1964, the current controlled cloth scheme has been in operation from 1-4-74. While introducing the scheme, a production level of 800 million sq metres in a year was kept in view. During the year 1-4-74 to 31-3-75, actual production of controlled cloth reached a level of 823 million sq. metres which was more than the level envisaged.

2. Requests have been received by Government from the industry from time to time for increase in prices of controlled cloth, as fixed on 1-4-74 and no increase has since been allowed. A high-powered committee has been set up to go into the cost and price structure of the controlled cloth.

3. Keeping in view the sluggish market conditions and the resultant

accumulation of stocks, need was felt to provide relief to financially weak units of the industry. It has been decided that such units will be eligible to apply for exemption from the production of controlled cloth for one year.

4. With effect from October, 1972, distribution of controlled cloth was also brought under statutory control and certain distribution channels were prescribed. With a view to ensure that the cloth reached vulnerable sections of the population, guidelines were issued to the State Governments to take steps to provide necessary outlets in rural and semi-urban areas and also to prescribe criteria for sale of cloth. The distribution arrangements were entrusted to the National Cooperative Consumers Federation at apex level. The distribution arrangements were kept under constant review and from time to time steps were taken to streamline the procedure. Towards the end of 1974, there was accumulation of controlled cloth. Action was taken to meet the situation by way of liberalising the distribution arrangements and also by expanding the outlets. As a result stocks of controlled cloth are expected to come down to normal levels.

Excise Duty on Indigenous Marine Diesel Engines

1109. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government to grant complete exemption from payment of excise duty on indigenous Marine Diesel Engines with a view to encourage fishing; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a)

and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has not taken a final decision in the matter.

Improvement in Economy of the Country after Emergency

1110. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economy of the country has registered an improvement after the declaration of Emergency;

(b) if so, the quantum of money in circulation before Emergency and at present; and

(c) what was the level of G.N.P. in the industrial sector before Emergency and at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Money supply with the public as on June 20, 1975, (immediately before the declaration of emergency) was Rs. 12,221 crores, and on January 2, 1976 (latest available) it stood at Rs. 12,275 crores.

(c) Presumably, what the Hon. Member has in mind is the G.N.P. originating in the industrial sector. These data are published only on annual basis and the latest year for which such published data are available is 1972-73. In the absence of such data for the period under reference, the nearest approximation which may be used is the Index of Industrial Production (1970 is equal to 100), which rose from 110.8 for the quarter April-June 1975 to 119.4 for the quarter July-September 1975.

Agricultural Loan given by Nationalised Banks in Eastern and North Eastern Region States

1111. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given by the nationalised banks, bank-wise in

Eastern and North Eastern Region States, State-wise and District-wise for agriculture during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the broad outlines of schemes of nationalised banks to help the agriculturists in the country;

(c) the nature of the schemes that are being implemented in these States, State-wise; and

(d) the action being taken to popularise these schemes in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (PRA-NAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE). (a) to (d). A statement giving district-wise outstanding agricultural advances by scheduled commercial banks in the Eastern and North-Eastern Region States as at the end of June, 1973 and June, 1974 (latest available) is in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10218/76] The State-wise amount of advances will be clear from the Statement. The bank-wise data are not available.

Public sector banks provide loans for all agricultural operations and allied activities. These loans include direct advances as short-term crop loans, term loans for minor irrigation works, loans for purchase of agricultural machinery and other equipment, development of land and loans for dairy, poultry, fisheries and other allied activities. Indirect agricultural advances include loans to primary agricultural Cooperative credit societies, farmers' service societies, loans to dealers in fertilizers and other inputs, loans to Agro-Service Centres and to State Electricity Boards for energization of tubewells and pumpsets.

Public sector banks are financing agricultural development schemes approved and sanctioned by the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation for such purposes as minor

irrigation, land development, farm mechanisation, plantation and horticulture, poultry and dairy as well as market yard projects. These banks are also actively participating in the implementation of the IBRD/IDA aided projects in various States. The banks are also participating in the scheme of financing the primary agricultural co-operative credit societies. They are associated in the organisation and financing of Farmers' Service Societies. They are also playing an important role in the SFDA/MFAL areas by extending necessary credit in the project areas for the schemes formulated by these agencies. For intensive coverage and effective supervision, these banks are increasingly adopting area approach and village adoption schemes and State Bank of India Group have opened several agricultural development branches for this purpose.

Public sector banks have been implementing their schemes throughout the country including the Eastern and North-Eastern Region States.

Banks generally take steps to popularise the schemes for agricultural development through distribution of leaflets, Advertisements in local newspapers, exhibition of films in villages, etc. Department of Banking also brought out various leaflets to popularise the schemes of the public sector banks

Debt Relief to States during Fifth Plan

1112. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa State would get any debt relief in the Fifth Plan in the repayment of Central loans;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) which other States are getting debt relief and the amount thereof, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 159.44 crores.

(c) A Statement showing the State-wise figures of debt relief in repayment of Central loans, over the period of the Fifth Plan, is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Debt Relief to states over the period of the Fifth Plan.

States	(Rs. Crores)
1. Andhra Pradesh	191.82
2. Assam	154.31
3. Bihar	138.43
4. Gujarat	40.25
5. Haryana	28.80
6. Himachal Pradesh	34.05
7. Jammu & Kashmir	132.29
8. Karnataka	126.89
9. Kerala	111.91
10. Madhya Pradesh	87.65
11. Maharashtra	68.22
12. Manipur	20.85
13. Meghalaya	8.43
14. Nagaland	5.11
15. Orissa	159.44
16. Punjab	14.92
17. Rajasthan	276.88
18. Tamilnadu	88.39
19. Tripura	11.60
20. Uttar Pradesh	154.17
21. West Bengal	136.25
TOTAL	1990.66

Closure of Tea Gardens in Tripura

1113. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea gardens closed in Tripura;

(b) the number of workers thrown out of job; and

(c) whether any step has been taken by Government to run the tea gardens under Government control?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) According to the information available with Tea Board, eight tea estates in Tripura are reported to be under closure.

(b) No information is available in this regard.

(c) Measures including take over of management to rehabilitate the gardens which can be revived back to normalcy have been settled by Government, and the proposals for introducing legislation to amend the Tea Act, 1953, to provide for taking over management of such gardens have been finalised.

Payment of Loan Arrears by Branches of Central Bank in Bihar

1114. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Central Bank Branches at Sapoul under Saharsa District and other places of Bihar are causing widespread harassment to small retail shopkeepers by getting court orders for attachment of property and other assets and forcing them to repay loan arrears at one time and not in instalments; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking back loans in instalments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Central Bank of India has reported that its Sapoul branch has instituted certificate proceedings against 15 borrowers who were given loans in 1972-73 to the tune of Rs 2,50,000 due to non-payment of bank's dues inspite of several reminders. The bank has not received any proposal for repayment in instalments, from any of these borrowers.

संकटग्रस्त कपड़ा मिलें

1115. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पीडिय :
श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी :

क्या बाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने अब तक कितनी संकटग्रस्त मिलों को अपने हाथ में लिया है; और

(ख) उन्हें सुधारने पर कितनी राशि खर्च हुई है ?

बाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) ऐसे 103 संकटग्रस्त वस्त्र उपक्रमों के मालावा, जिनका प्रबन्ध सरकार ने अपने हाथ में ले लिया है और जिनका राष्ट्रीयकरण भी किया जा चुका है, एक और वस्त्र उपक्रम का प्रबन्ध हाथ में ले लिया गया है।

(ख) दिसम्बर, 1975 तक राष्ट्रीय-कृत संकटग्रस्त वस्त्र उपक्रमों में लगभग 21 करोड़ रु० की लागत के प्राधुनीकीकरण कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वित किए जा चुके हैं।

Export of Prawns

1116. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than one-third of the prawn catch is exported;

(b) whether the traditional form of prawn culture in Kerala has now led to the discovery of enormous quantities of suri-riding which can be collected for rearing;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard to meet the demand for prawn from abroad; and

(d) what is Government's target for 1976 with regard to prawn export?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The traditional form of prawn culture in Kerala has not led to the discovery of enormous quantities of larvae. Large quantities of prawn larvae are, however, available near the surf-beaten shore line of Kerala Coast, which can be collected for rearing purposes.

(c) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin has recently started an experimental prawn culture farm at Narrakkal near Cochin where prawn larvae from sea-shore waters are collected in large numbers, stocked and reared. Large scale prawn farming can be attempted elsewhere in due course depending on the experience of the Narrakkal farm.

(d) 49,100 tonnes.

Ex-Gratia Compensations for Enemy Properties

1117. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) ex-gratia, compensation sanctioned and given to claimants from West Pakistan and former East Pak-

istan for their properties during the year 1975;

(b) break-up of claims remained outstanding related to claimants of the two sectors at the end of the year; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to expeditiously deal with such claims?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) During the year 1975, a sum of Rs. 4.65 crores was sanctioned for ex-gratia payments. The actual payments made during the year amounted to Rs. 4.70 crores, which included some amount sanctioned in the previous year.

(b) 2624 claims in respect of claimants from former East Pakistan and 99 from West Pakistan were pending at the end of the year.

(c) Every effort is being made to settle these claims as early as possible.

Foreign Tourists who visited India

1118. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the break-up of the nationalities of tourists who visited India during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10219/76].

The nationality-wise figures for the months of November and December 1975 have yet to be computed.

Dismissal/Pre-mature Retirement of Employees of Commerce Department

1119. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any employees of the Commerce Department have been dismissed or prematurely retired during the period of emergency; and

(b) the reasons for taking such steps?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. 59 employees including 28 gazetted officers of this Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices have been pre-maturely retired and/or dismissed from service during the period of Emergency.

(b) (i) Lack of integrity and

(ii) Employee having outlived his utility;

Coca Cola Export Corporation

1120. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of profits earned by M/s Coca Cola Export Corporation during the years 1973 and 1974;

(b) the capital invested by them in India;

(c) how much foreign exchange is awaiting remittance due to head office on account of profit and other expenses; and

(d) how much Indian share participation will this company be required to accept under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and by what time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) According to the Company's balance sheets for the years ended 31st December 1973 and 31st December 1974, the profits earned by the Company for those years were respectively Rs. 71,23,076 and Rs. 51,05,620.

(b) The capital initially invested by the company in India was about Rs. 6.6 lakhs.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India has not yet issued any orders under Section 29(2)(a) and (c) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 in respect of this Company.

Over-invoicing and under-invoicing in Exports and Imports by Coca Cola Export Corporation

1121. SHRI SHASHI BHUSMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5877 on the 11th April, 1975 regarding over-invoicing and under-invoicing in exports and imports by Coca Cola Export Corporation and state:

(a) whether the required information has since been collected; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the information since collected no case of under-invoicing of imports or over-invoicing of exports by M/s. Coca Cola Export Corporation has been noticed in any of the Custom Houses during the last three years. The question of taking any action against this firm, therefore, did not arise.

Bombay Customs House has examined the question of assessable value of imports by M/s. Coca Cola Export Corporation and found that the invoice values of their imports are acceptable.

Regarding the complaint of under-invoicing of exports by this firm, the matter is under examination. Pending investigations, exports by this firm are being allowed provisionally.

World Bank's Assistance for Orissa

1122. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has surveyed the feasibility of different developmental projects in Orissa last year;

(b) if so, what are their findings and recommendations; and

(c) the amount agreed to by the World Bank for the State of Orissa and the projects proposed by the Government of Orissa under this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir. A World Bank Team has surveyed the feasibility of development projects in the agriculture sector in Orissa last year;

(b) Their final findings and recommendations are yet to be received.

(c) The amounts would be known only after the World Bank has finally appraised the proposed projects later in the year.

Development of Tourist Centres in Orissa

1123. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to develop tourist centres in the Central Sector in Orissa during the years 1974-75 and 1975-76;

(b) the funds allocated to the State by the Centre for the purpose during the year 1975-76; and

(c) whether Government propose to develop the places of tourist attractions in the Districts of Koraput, Ganjam, Keonjhar and Kalahandi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). Completion of the youth hostel at Puri, and the enhancement of the environment of the area surrounding the temples at Bhubaneswar and Konark have been included in the Fifth Five Year Plan of the Central Department of Tourism. A master plan of the area surrounding the Sun Temple at Konark prepared by the Town & Country Planning Or-

ganisation, Ministry of Works & Housing at the instance of the Central Department of Tourism is under finalisation. The preparation of the master plan has been undertaken with a view to regulate the development of facilities at Konark so that the environmental characteristics of the area surrounding the Sun Temple are not marred in any manner by haphazard growth.

In addition, the India Tourism Development Corporation proposes to expand their Travellers Lodge at Bhubaneswar during 1975-76, as also to construct 3-star category hotel at Puri and enlarge their transport unit at Bhubaneswar during the Fifth Plan period.

The practice of giving subsidy to State Governments for the development of tourist facilities has been discontinued since the Fourth Plan. No funds have, therefore, been allocated to the Government of Orissa for this purpose during 1975-76. However, in 1974-75, the Central Department of Tourism spent an amount of Rs. 1.35 lakhs towards the construction of the youth hostel at Puri. The India Tourism Development Corporation anticipates an expenditure of Rs. 6.00 lakhs during the year 1975-76 for the expansion of its Travellers Lodge at Bhubaneswar.

(c) There are no schemes proposed for the present in the Central Sector for the development of tourist facilities in the Districts of Koraput, Ganjam, Keonjhar and Kalahandi as the main thrust of tourism development in Orissa in the Central Sector is in the Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark tourist triangle which is already popular with international tourists.

इंजीनियरी वस्तुओं का निर्यात

1124. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1974-75 की तुलना में वर्ष 1975-76 में इंजीनियरी वस्तुओं का कितना निर्यात हुआ ; और

(ख) इन वस्तुओं का निर्यात किन देशों को किया जाता है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) इंजीनियरी सामान के भारतीय निर्यात—इंजीनियरी सामान में अनेक प्रकार की वस्तुएं होती हैं जिनके कुछ निर्यात मात्रा के रूप में दर्शाना सम्भव नहीं है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में इंजीनियरी सामान के निर्यातों का मूल्य निम्नोक्त प्रकार रहा :

(मूल्य लाख रु० में)

वस्तु	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	अप्रैल, 74	अगस्त, 75
इंजीनियरी का सामान	140,98	201,68	352,75	115,85	156,84
(क) धातु निर्मित वस्तुएं	38,31	49,46	75,98	27,64	31,85
(ख) इलेक्ट्रिक मशीनों के अलावा अन्य मशीनें	29,36	46,91	89,79	23,37	46,05
(ग) इलेक्ट्रिक मशीनें	23,43	28,75	56,29	18,13	26,19
(घ) परिवहन उपकरण	33,26	40,37	64,35	17,27	32,91
(ङ) अन्य इंजीनियरी सामान	17,62	36,19	66,34	24,44	19,84

(ख) जिन मुख्य देशों को इन्जीनियरी का सामान निर्यात किया जाता है उनमें से शामिल है :—सं० रा० अमरीका, ब्रिटेन, इराक, मलेशिया, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, बंगलादेश, नाइजीरिया, ईरान, कुवैत, सोवियत संघ, सऊदी अरब, कोनिया, आस्ट्रेलिया तथा युगोस्लाविया।

Export of Basmati to Kuwait by S.T.C.

1125. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether failure on the part of State Trading Corporation to honour its export obligation of basmati rice to Kuwait, as per schedule, has led to the cancellation of the remaining order by the buyer;

(b) how many tons of rice were made available and what was the balance to be delivered; and

(c) how much State Trading Corporation is required to pay for liquidated damages and dead freight for the freight ships which had to return empty?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Out of two contracts, totalling 30,000 tonnes, 19,995 tonnes of basmati rice were shipped, leaving a balance of 10,005 tonnes. The balance quantity could not be shipped due to non-availability of gunny bags for export packing as required by the buyer. Letters of credit were not extended by the buyer for the balance quantity remaining unshipped.

(c) No liquidated damages or dead freight has been paid by State Trading Corporation or is payable.

Imported Newsprint piled up with S.T.C.

1126. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of imported newsprint have piled up with State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, what is its tonnage and value and the reasons for piling up; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to clear the dock?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). As on 31st December, 1975, the State Trading Corporation was holding a stock of about 24,800 tonnes of newsprint valued at approximately Rs. 10 crores. The main reason for the accumulation was the slow pace of lifting by the consumers.

(c) Further imports of newsprint have been suspended since the 17th October, 1975, except where vessels had already been nominated. All the consumers are required to lift their requirements from buffer stocks of the State Trading Corporation against valid authorisations.

S.C. and S.T. Employees in Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation

1127. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in Class I, II, III and IV in his Ministry and the various corporations under it as on 1st December, 1975;

(b) how many, out of them, belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each category;

(c) the total number of employees recruited or promoted in each category in the years 1974-75 and 1975-76 (upto 1st December, 1975) and how

many, out of them, belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) whether any special recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been made during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (d). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

नियतकालिक जमा राशियों और शेरों के रूप में कम्पनियों द्वारा धन एकत्रित किया जाना।

1128. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1974-75 और वर्ष 1975-76 (सितम्बर, 1975 तक) के दौरान किन-किन कम्पनियों ने नियत-कालिक जमा राशियों और शेरों के रूप में जनता से धन एकत्रित किया है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस आशय की शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं कि जनता से भारी रकम एकत्रित करने के बाद भी कुछ कम्पनियां अस्तित्व में नहीं आई हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है?

राजत्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रचण्ड कुमार मुखर्जी) : (क) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा गैर-बैंकिंग कम्पनियों को जारी किये गये निर्देशों के अनुसार उन्हें अपनी जमा राशि की, हर वर्ष मार्च के अन्त तक की स्थिति के विवरण उसी वर्ष 30 जून से पहले-पहले भेजने पड़ते हैं। 3 फरवरी, 1975 से कम्पनी (जमाओं की स्वीकृति) नियम, 1975 के लागू होने के बाद, उन

गैर-बैंकिंग गैर-वित्तीय कम्पनियों को जिन पर ये नियम लागू होते हैं, कम्पनियों के रजिस्ट्रार को, अपने वित्तीय वर्ष के अन्तिम दिन से 30 दिन के अन्दर विवरण भेजने पड़ते हैं, जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ साथ, उनके द्वारा किसी वित्तीय-वर्ष के दौरान स्वीकृत या नवीकृत जमाओं के विषय में सूचना शामिल होती है। अतः वित्तीय और गैर-वित्तीय दोनों ही प्रकार की गैर-बैंकिंग कम्पनियों के वर्ष 1975-76 के विवरण अभी वांछित नहीं हुए हैं।

जहां तक वर्ष 1974-75 का सम्बन्ध है, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि सभी गैर-बैंकिंग कम्पनियों द्वारा भेजे गये विवरण उसके समीक्षाधीन है। इन कम्पनियों की संख्या बहुत अधिक, अर्थात् लगभग 1000 से भी अधिक है, अतः इनके विवरणों की इस समीक्षा के परिणाम कुछ समय पश्चात् ही उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं तथा इनका प्रकाशन समेकित रूप में किया जाता है।

पब्लिक लिमिटेड कम्पनियां विवरण-पत्रों (प्रॉस्पेक्टस) के माध्यम से शेर जारी करके पूंजी एकत्र करती हैं। इन प्रॉस्पेक्टसों में किश्तों के (आवेदन पत्रों के साथ दी जाने वाली रकम सहित) के विभिन्न प्रतिमान (पैटर्न) निर्धारित किये जाते हैं जिनमें अंशदाताओं द्वारा शेरों का पूर्ण मूल्य भुदा किया जाना होता है। कम्पनी कार्य विभाग ने सूचित किया है कि उसके पास उपलब्ध ताजी सूचना के अनुसार 31 मार्च, 1975 को समाप्त होने वाले वर्ष के दौरान 59 गैर-सरकारी गैर-वित्तीय कम्पनियों ने 23.43 करोड़ रुपये की पूंजी निर्गमित की थी।

(ख) और (ग). भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने ही सूचना दी है कि यद्यपि उसे, अस्तित्व में ही न आने वाली कम्पनियों द्वारा धन एकत्र करने के विषय में तो कोई शिकायत

नहीं प्राप्त हुई है, किन्तु इनामी चिट्टे, बेनिफिट/बचत योजनाएँ चलाने वाली ऐसी कुछ कम्पनियों के बारे में शिकायत खरूर मिली है, जिन्होंने अस्तित्व में आने के बाद अपना कारोबार बन्द कर दिया है।

इस विषय में सरकार "गैर-बैंकिंग कम्पनियों विषयक अध्ययन-दल" की यह सिफारिश स्वीकार कर चुकी है कि जनता के व्यापक हित में इनामी चिट्टे, बेनिफिट/बचत योजनाओं आदि पर पाबन्दी लगा दी जाये। अन्य सिफारिशों के साथ साथ, इस सिफारिश के कार्यान्वयन के विषय में कार्यवाही शुरू कर दी गई है।

प्राइवेट विमान कम्पनियों द्वारा हवाई मार्गों का परिचालन

1129. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे :

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार साँधी :

क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार ने गैर-सरकारी विमान कम्पनियों को इंदौर-अहमदाबाद, इंदौर-बम्बई तथा अन्य हवाई मार्गों पर यात्री सेवाओं के परिचालन की पेशकश की है,

(ख) यदि हा, तो ऐसे समस्त मार्ग कौन-कौन से हैं,

(ग) किन किन प्राइवेट विमान कम्पनियों ने इस पेशकश को स्वीकार कर लिया है, और

(घ) इस योजना के अन्तर्गत प्राइवेट सेवाओं का परिचालन कब से शुरू किये जाने की संभावना है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) और (ख) सफ़ारी एयरवेज को बम्बई-कोलकोता-पूरबन्दर-राजकोट-अहमदाबाद-इंदौर मार्ग पर अनुसूचित सेवाएँ परिचालित करने की अनुमति दी गई है। इसके अतिरिक्त, निम्नलिखित 9 मार्ग, जिन पर इस समय इंडियन एयरलाइन्स परिचालन नहीं कर रही है निजी परिचालकों को ऑफर किए गए हैं —

- (1) कलकत्ता-जमशेदपुर-रूकैला-रायपुर।
- (2) नागपुर-हैदराबाद-विजयवाड़ा-मद्रास।
- (3) कलकत्ता-गया-मुजफ्फरपुर - पटना वाराणसी (वलकत्ता तथा वाराणसी और कलकत्ता तथा पटना के बीच यातायात अधिकारों के बिना)।
- (4) दिल्ली-इलाहाबाद-जबलपुर।
- (5) कलकत्ता-मालदा-बच्च दिहार-रूपसी।
- (6) कलकत्ता-शिलांग-ऐंजाल।
- (7) बम्बई-नासिक।
- (8) बम्बई-नासिक-शोलापुर-बम्बई।
- (9) बम्बई-कालीकट-कोचीन (बम्बई तथा कोचीन के बीच यातायात अधिकारों के बिना)।

(ग) निम्नलिखित परिचालकों ने रुचि प्रदर्शित की है तथा प्रत्येक के सामने दशायी गये मार्गों पर परिचालन करने का प्रस्ताव किया है —

परिचालक का नाम	मार्ग
1 सफ़ारी एयरवेज	बम्बई-नासिक। बम्बई-कालीकट-कोचीन।

परिचालक का काम	अर्थ
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2. एग्जीक्यूटिव कलकत्ता-जमशेदपुर-रूरेला-एंड जनरल रायपुर ।
 एवियेशन नागपुर-हैदराबाद - विजय-को-आपरेटिव वाडा-मद्रास ।
 सोलाहटी, बम्बई-नासिक-शोलापुर - हैदराबाद । बम्बई ।
 बम्बई-कालीकट-कोचीन (बम्बई तथा कोचीन के बीच यातायात अधिकांश के बिना) ।

(घ) प्राप्त हुए आवेदन-पत्रों पर विचार किया जा रहा है। इस समय ऐसा कोई सकेत नहीं दिया जा सकता कि अननुमोदित परिचालका द्वारा सेवाएँ कब प्रारम्भ की जाने की संभावना है।

हथकरघों का बन्द होना

1130. श्री राम हेड़ाळ : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) इस समय किनने हथकरघे बन्द पड़े हैं और उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) सरकार ने बन्द हथकरघों को फिर से शुरू करवाने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपजंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : (क) इस समय बन्द पड़े हथकरघों की संख्या के बारे में सरकार को कोई जानकारी नहीं है। किन्तु बार-बार विभिन्न राज्यों और उत्तर प्रदेश

के सूचना मिली है कि बुनकरों के पास हथकरघा माल जमा होने के कारण कुछ बेरोजगारी और कम रोजगारी हो गई है।

(ख) जमा पड़े हथकरघा माल की निकासी के लिए इन राज्यों और अखिल भारतीय हथकरघा वस्त्र विपणन सहकारी समिति लि०, बम्बई को 5 करोड़ रु० की ऋण सहायता दी गई है। उसके पश्चात् निकासी में तेजी लाने के लिए 31 जनवरी, 1976 तक जमा पड़े माल की बिक्री पर 20 प्रतिशत की विशेष छूट दी गई है। केन्द्र का अग्रदान 10 प्रतिशत होगा लेकिन उसी के अनुरूप 10 प्रतिशत अग्रदान राज्य सरकार द्वारा भी दिया जायेगा।

Crisis in Cashew Industry

1131 SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the Cashew Industry is in severe crisis due to heavy stock of cashew kernels, and

(b) if so, the steps taken to save the industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) and (b) There was accumulation of stocks of cashew kernels till three or four months back, but consequent on substantial exports made since then The balance of stocks lying with the trade has been considerably reduced, and the present stock is not considered to be extra ordinarily high

Fall in Price of Natural Rubber

1132 SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of natural rubber has

fallen causing hardships to the growers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The price of Rs. 650 per quintal of raw rubber which ruled in October, 1975, has picked up to the current level of Rs. 700 per quintal. The price has all the time been well above the minimum price fixed by the Government.

Government have asked the manufacturers to step up their purchase of rubber to relieve the growers of their accumulated stocks. The manufacturers have now improved their stocks.

Export of Natural Rubber

1133. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for the export of natural rubber to maintain the price level; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the demand and supply of rubber in the country are more or less balanced, there is no proposal to allow export of natural rubber. The ruling price of natural rubber in the country is far above the minimum price fixed by the Government.

Setting up of Branches of Nationalised and Rural Banks in Midnapur District

1134. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new branches of banks as well as rural banks have been set

up in the District of Midnapur during the year 1975; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that during the period January 1, 1975 to November 30, 1975 commercial banks opened 6 new branches in the District of Midnapur as per details set out in the attached Statement. No Regional Rural bank was set up in the District during the year 1975.

Statement

Centrawise list of new branches of commercial banks opened during the period 1st January, 1975 to 30th November, 1975 in Midnapur District, West Bengal.

Name of the Centre	Classification	Name of Bank
Mechanda	Rural	State Bank of India
Debra	Rural	State Bank of India
Kharagpur	Urban	Central Bank of India
Midnapore	Semi-urban	Central Bank of India
Halaid	Rural	United Bank of India
Kharagpur-Golbazar	Urban	United Bank of India

Priyalakshmi Mills, Baroda

1135. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Priyalakshmi Mills in Baroda, Gujarat has proved to be a sick unit almost throughout the year 1975; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take over the said unit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). Priyalakshmi Mills, Baroda is reported to have been closed from 23rd April, 1975. Government's decision on the question of taking over of the management of the Mills would depend on various relevant facts and factors. The Central Government and State Government of Gujārat are in consultation with each other on this matter.

L.I.C. Scheme to provide houses to Policy Holders

1136. **SHRI P. GANGADEB:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the L.I.C. scheme for providing houses to needy policy-holders has changed rates of interest on the loans; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). Due to the increase in the bank rates, the L.I.C. has raised its interest rates on loans under the various Mortgage loan Schemes. However a rebate of 2 per cent p.a. is available to loans upto Rs. 25000 provided value of the house does not exceed Rs. 75,000 and the total income of the loanee is below Rs. 21,000 p.a.

Development of Managerial Talents in Public Sector Undertakings

1137. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:**
SHRI BHOGENDR JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises is considering a nine-point action plan for speedy development of managerial talents from within the enterprises for manning the top posts;

(b) if so, the salient features of the 'Nine-Point action plan'; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken in creating a public sector management cadre in place of the now defunct IMP?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) convened a Conference of the Heads of In-House Training Institutes of the public Sector Enterprises on the 9th and 10th December, 1975 to take stock of the present training resources and draw up a strategy and programme for development of managerial talent from within the enterprises for manning the top posts. After two days of deliberations the Conference suggested the following Nine Point Action Plan:—

- (i) Inter-Sectoral pooling of training resources on an industry-cum-region basis.
- (ii) Pooling of training resources on a functional basis in specialised functions like marketing.
- (iii) Nomination by BPE of a training centre for such inter-company pooling.
- (iv) Setting up of an advanced centre of managerial training and development.
- (v) Convening a meeting of Chief Executives and trainers by BPE for obtaining the approval and commitment of the Chief Executives to the programme of action to be implemented.
- (vi) Constitution of an Advisory Group on Management Training and Development by BPE.
- (vii) Maximum efforts on the part of the trainers to get the Corporate Plans formulated, since Management Training and Development cannot be meaningful without corporate planning.
- (viii) Building up of a training cadre from the operational staff

through a policy of rotation of training and managerial staff on a secondment basis

- (ix) Setting up of Training Policy Committee by each Public Sector organisation which will annually review the training needs and methods of their managers

(c) The Government have constituted a Public Enterprises Selection Board with the responsibility of selecting persons for appointment to top level posts viz. Part time Chairman, Full time Chairman and Managing Directors, for all Public Sector Enterprises owned or managed by the Central Government other than those in the fields of Insurance and Banking. The Board will also be associated with the appointment of all Full-time Executives and Functional Directors. The Public Enterprises Selection Board will be closely associated with the formulation of selection, appraisal, training and development programmes and practices in the Public Sector Enterprises with a view to building up managerial talents from within the Enterprises for manning the top posts. The power regarding recruitment, training and promotion in respect of managerial posts below the Board level has been delegated to the Companies themselves. However the Secretary of the PESB will be associated with the Selection Committee set up by the Companies for selection of General Managers

Misuse of Import Export Licences

1138 SHRI DHAMANKAR Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of cases of misuse of import export licences detected and registered during the year 1974-75;

(b) how do they compare with corresponding period of previous year; and

(c) measures taken/proposed to plug the loopholes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH). (a) and (b) Action was taken under Imports Control Regulations for alleged misuse of import and Export licences in 361 and 532 cases during 1973-74 and 1974-75 respectively

(c) Several measures have been taken to minimise opportunities for abuse of import facilities. Actual Users have to maintain account of consumption of imported materials in a prescribed form. Utilisation of imported materials is also checked by sponsoring authorities. If imported material has not been used for two years the importer has to report to the licensing authority. In the current year a further step has been taken by stipulating that automatic licence to an Actual User will be limited to the actual consumption of imported inputs in the previous year or the value of licences obtained in the previous year, whichever is less.

तत्करी के सामान की बिक्री

1139. श्री शंकरदास सिंह
क्या बिस्म मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) वर्ष 1975 में पकड़े गये तत्करी के सामान को बेचने के लिए क्या प्रबंध किये गये, और

(ख) उसके परिणामस्वरूप कितनी धन-राशि प्राप्त हुई ?

राजस्व और वित्त विभाग के सचिव
राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रबोध कुमार मुन्नाजी) : (क) वर्ष 1975 के

दौरान पकड़े गये ऐसे निषिद्ध माल की बिक्री के लिए की गई व्यवस्था का ज्वीरा संलग्न विवरण-पत्र में दिया गया है, जो निपटान योग्य हो गया है।

(ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सबन-पटल पर रख दी जायगी।

विवरण

जबन किये गये माल की बिक्री तथा निपटान सम्बन्धी कार्य विधि इस प्रकार है :

(i) उपभोक्ता तथा विलामिता की वस्तुएं राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता सहकारी संघ लिमिटेड, नई दिल्ली के जरिए बेची जाती हैं और साथ ही सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित कुछ कैटीनों और सहकारी समितियों जैसे कैप्टीन, स्टोर विभाग, केन्द्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस, सीमा सुरक्षा दल, पुलिस कैप्टीन, सशस्त्र सेना और सम-मैनिक कैप्टीनों और (गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा संचालित) केन्द्रीय सरकारी कर्मचारी उपभोक्ता सहकारी समिति लि० को बेची जाती है। लेकिन (1) संगणक मशीनों/इलेक्ट्रॉनिक के सामान की बिक्री के लिए पाठशालाओं, विश्वविद्यालयों और सरकारी कार्यालयों को और (ii) जूट-शुदा घड़ियों की बिक्री के लिए सशस्त्र सेनाओं, केन्द्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस, सीमा सुरक्षा दल और सम-मैनिक दलों को, उनकी आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार, सबसे पहले तरजीह दी जाती है।

(ii) नष्ट होने वाली वस्तुओं और थोक में नहीं घाने वाली वस्तुओं की बिक्री विभागीय फुटकर

दुकानों के जरिये की जा सकती है।

(iii) लीग और समाने मेसर्स नेशनल कन्जर्न कोओपरेटिव फंडेशन लिमिटेड नई दिल्ली को, सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित सहकारी संस्थाओं को तथा कैटीनों को बेचे जाने है तथा साथ ही सार्वजनिक नीलामी द्वारा भी बेचे जाने है जो प्रायात के कोटा रखने वालों और औद्योगिक वास्तविक उपयोगताओं तथा सहकारी संस्थाओं तक ही सीमित होती है।

(iv) नायलोन तथा अन्य मशिनरट घागों की बिक्री विभाग द्वारा बुनकर संस्थाओं/सहकारी समितियों को सीधे ही की जाती हैं, जिन्हें बाजार मूल्य में 10 प्रतिशत छूट देकर बेचा जाता है तथा साथ ही उन्हें प्रमाणीकृत वास्तविक उपभोक्ताओं को भी नीलामी द्वारा बेचा जाता है।

(v) हीरों, रत्नों और उप-रत्नों तथा सवारी गाड़ियों को विभागीय आधार पर बेचा जाता है।

(vi) सोना और चादी टकमाल में भ्रज दिए जाते हैं।

(vii) मुद्रा को भारत के रिजर्व बैंक में जमा किया जाता है।

(viii) लांच-नीकाओं और गोला बारूद को तस्करी विरोधी कार्य के लिये विभागीय उपयोग के लिये रख लिया जाता है।

(ix) व्यापार-वस्तुओं को विषादीय नीलामियों तथा निविदाओं द्वारा बेचा जाता है।

(x) शराब, सैनिक कैदीनों और क्लबों को बेची जाती है तथा होटलों के भ्रयात लाइसेंसों के प्रति नामें दिखाकर होटलों को भी बेची जाती है।

Earnings from Export of Sugar

1140. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export earnings from sugar during the current financial year are likely to fall short of the projected level of Rs. 475 crores;

(b) if so, the value of sugar exported so far and likely to be exported; and

(c) main reasons for non-achievement of the export target?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The value of sugar exported so far in 1975-76 has been Rs. 326.77 Crores and during the whole year 1975-76 sugar exports are likely to realise Rs. 450 Crores approximately.

(c) There has been a decline in the international prices of sugar which has resulted in lesser unit value realisations.

Commission to Travel Agents by Airlines

1141. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed all airlines to enhance their (Placed in Library. See No. LT-102 20/76).

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). The commission payable to the travel agents by the airlines is fixed by IATA subject to the approval of the respective Governments.

In April, 1975, it was resolved at a special meeting of IATA to increase the then prevailing IATA rate of commission payable to passenger sales agents from 7 per to 7.5 per cent w.e.f. May 1, 1975 to additional cost involved in servicing a passenger. The Government of India approved this resolution.

At the IATA meeting held in Geneva in December, 1975, it was resolved to increase this rate to 8 per cent w.e.f. February 1, 1976. The Government of India have approved this resolution and it will come into effect, if approved by all the Governments concerned.

All India Conference of Tax Executives

1142. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether All India Conference of Tax Executives was held recently in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main suggestions put forth by this Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving a gist of the main suggestions made by the Conference is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT 10220/76).

Indian Exports in Danger

1143. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement by the Secretary to his Ministry regarding 'Indian exports in danger'; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government keeps the changing domestic and International situation in respect of exports consistently under review. All suitable steps are taken to ensure that not only increasing export surpluses are available from the economy, but also the Indian goods remain competitive in international markets. Towards this end among other steps taken mention may be made of the abolition of the export duty on carpet backing and hession, grant of cash compensatory support for selected items of exports and liberalisation of Export Control Regulations by placing 168 items on the OGL and de-controlling the export of another 18 items etc.

भारतीय पर्यटन विकास निगम के होटलों में अनियमितताओं और फिजूलखर्ची के बारे में समिति नियुक्त किया जाना

1144. श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय पर्यटन विकास निगम द्वारा चलाए जा रहे होटलों में अनियमितताओं और फिजूलखर्ची के मामलों की जांच करने के लिये कोई समिति बनाई है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस समिति के क्या निष्कर्ष हैं?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) :

(क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठना।

राज्यों द्वारा भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से ओवरड्राफ्ट लेना

1145. श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) किन-किन राज्यों ने दिसम्बर, 1975 तक भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से ओवरड्राफ्ट लिया तथा कितना-कितना; और

(ख) उन राज्यों में उन राशि को वसूल करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : (क) और (ख) : यदि राज्य सरकारों ने रिजर्व बैंक से ओवरड्राफ्ट लिया हो तो उसका पता उनकी रोजमर्रा की रोकड़ बाकी की स्थिति से चल जाता है। 31 दिसम्बर 1975 को निम्नलिखित राज्यों ने ओवरड्राफ्ट लिए हुए थे:—

(करोड़ रु०)

1. केरल	1.86
2. राजस्थान	2.07
3. त्रिपुरा	0.53

राजस्थान और त्रिपुरा ने ओवरड्राफ्ट की राशि वापस कर दी है और केरल की स्थिति विचारधीन है।

Cotton-textile Policy

1146. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating an integrated cotton-textile policy for the country; and

(b) if so, the redeeming features of the new policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). Decisions have been taken on an integrated policy framework for the textile industry covering important elements such as, announcement of support prices for the principal varieties of cotton, defining the role of the Public Sector Agencies vis-a-vis cotton, policy relating to controlled cloth, measures for the rehabilitation and modernisation of the industry, Industrial Licensing for expansion of spindleage and development of handloom sector.

Memorandum from Man-made Fibres Spinners' Association

1147. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Man-made Fibres Spinners' Association has submitted a memorandum to Government regarding irrational and frequent increase in the prices of viscose staple fibre;

(b) if so, the main points thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points raised in the memorandum are:

- (1) Fixation of price of viscose staple fibre at a realistic level; and

(2) Relief in excise duty on viscose staple fibre and viscose spun yarn.

(c) These proposals which have been received only recently are under consideration of the Government.

I.T.D.C. Hotel on the Foreshore of Hussainsagar, Hyderabad

1148 **SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation proposed to construct a hotel on the foreshore of Hussainsagar in Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been shelved by I.T.D.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). The proposal is under consideration.

Credit given by Nationalised Banks to Rural Poor in Andhra

1149. **SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of money the nationalised banks have given as credit to the rural poor in Andhra for implementing Prime Minister's 20 Point Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): Banks do not maintain separate statistics relating to advances provided by them to the rural poor under the Twenty Point Economic Programme. However, according to the latest information available, the amount of outstanding agricultural advances (direct) by public sector banks (including nationalised banks) in Andhra Pradesh was Rs. 59.71 crores (Provisional) as at the end of June 1975.

Consumer Price Index

1150. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the All India Price Index of Consumer goods in 1960, 1974 and in 1975 respectively?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): The All India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (1960=100) averaged 303.5 for 1974, while for the first eleven months of 1975 the average comes to 322.3.

Kandla Free Trade Zone

1151 SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kandla Free Trade Zone has been picking up in terms of greater earnings of foreign exchange and promotion of more industrial output in the years 1974 and 1975; and

(b) if so, broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The exports from the zone increased from Rs. 1.77 crores in 1973-74 to Rs. 1.80 crores in 1974-75. Exports were of the order of Rs. 1.47 crores between April, 1975 and December, 1975. The number of units in the zone was 11 on 1st April, 1974, 15 on 1st April 1975 and 20 on 31st December, 1975.

Fleet of Boeings in the Service of Indian Airlines

1152. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines have recently purchased an additional Boeing aircraft;

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(b) if so, the cost thereof;

(c) the present fleet of Boeings in the service of Indian Airlines;

(d) whether an optimum use is being made of these Boeings; and

(e) whether Government propose to augment the fleet of Indian Airlines in the year 1976?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). In 1975, Indian Airlines acquired two additional Boeing 737 aircraft at a total cost of Rs. 10.61 crores.

(c) There are 12 Boeing-737 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines including the two aircraft acquired in 1975.

(d) The Boeing 737 fleet is being utilised to its optimum level, the revenue hours planned as part of the Winter Schedule effective from 1st November, 1975 being 2,738 hrs. which compares favourably with the average utilisation of this type of aircraft by all IATA operators of 2,540 hrs. during 1974.

(e) The Indian Airlines have placed an order for the acquisition of three wide bodied A-300 B2 aircraft for delivery during the last quarter of 1976.

Proposal to link Ahmedabad with Major cities in Gujarat

1153. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link Ahmedabad with other major cities in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). In view of their tight fleet position and other operational constraints, Indian Airlines have

no plans to provide direct airlink between Ahmedabad and other cities in Gujarat. However, the Corporation

are operating air services to cities in Gujarat as per the following schedule —

Service No.	Air Craft	Frequency	Sector
IC-103/104	Caravelle	Daily	Bombay/Ahmedabad/Bombay
IC-115/116	HS-748	Daily	Bombay/Rajkot/Bombay
IC-135/136	HS-748	Three times in a week	Bombay/Bhavnagar/Bombay
IC-137/138	HS-748	Four times in a week	Bombay/Porbandar/Bombay
IC-141/142	HS-748	Daily	Bombay/Baroda/Bombay
IC-145/146	HS-748	Daily	Bombay/Bhavnagar/Bombay
IC-147/148	HS-748	Daily	Bombay/Jamnagar/Bhuj/Jamnagar/Bombay
IC-461/462	Caravelle	Daily	Delhi/Ahmedabad/Bombay and back

Indo-UK Joint Commission

1154, SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up UK-India Joint Commission, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) and (b) An arrangement by way of Exchange of Letters was signed by Mr Peter Shore Secretary of State for Trade and Prof D P Chattopadhyaya, Minister (Commerce) establishing an Indo British Economic Committee with a view to consider/recommend ways and means of promoting economic/industrial co-operation between the two countries. Two Sub committees have also been set-up, the first being concerned with issues of bilateral economic relations and the second with industrial co-operation, technological collaboration and investment.

Export of Mica to Soviet Union

1155 SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI.
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether a contract was signed between the Leader of Soviet Delegation and Director of Mica Trading Corporation of India recently for export of mica to Soviet Union, and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The contract is for the supply of about 505 tonnes of mica valued at approximately Rs 763 crores to USSR during 1976

Unsold Stocks of Imported Items with S.T.C.

1156 SHRI D D DESAI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has been carrying unsold

stocks of several canalised import items;

(b) if so, the value thereof; and

(c) the methods adopted by the State Trading Corporation to reduce the stockpile?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). The value of imported stocks with the State Trading Corporation as on 31st December, 1975 was about Rs. 37.46 crores. These stocks are generally within the normal limits necessary for meeting promptly the requirements of actual users.

Export of Coir Goods

1157. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of coir goods during 1975-76; and

(b) whether there is a scope of new market for these goods in West Asia and Latin America?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The total export of coir goods during April—November, 1975 was 22,529 tonnes worth Rs. 1178.32 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Gold and other valuables found during searches of Lockers in Calcutta

1158. SHRI TUNA ORAON Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons whose lockers were searched in Calcutta during 1975;

(b) the value of jewellery, gold and diamonds found in each case as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) to (c). A large number of searches of various premises including lockers were conducted by the Income-tax, Customs and Gold Control authorities in Calcutta during 1975. A separate record of searches of lockers is not maintained. The time and labour involved in collecting this information for each individual case may not be commensurate with the results that may be achieved. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires specific information on the details of seizures made from the search of lockers of any particular person, the same could be collected.

Development of Tourism

1159. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated and the amount allotted by the Central Government for the development of tourism in each State and Union Territory in 1975; and

(b) whether all the States and Union Territories have utilised the amount allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The development of facilities for tourists in the Central Sector is not taken up on State-wise basis. Places are selected for development on the basis of their existing or potential attraction for international tourists. Moreover, the practice of giving subsidy to State Governments has been discontinued from the inception of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Schemes are thus taken up either in the Central Sector or in the State Sector. No funds were therefore allocated by the Central Department of Tourism to the State Governments/ Union Territories during 1975 for the development of tourism.

In the Central Sector, an expenditure of Rs. 35.73 lakhs is anticipated during 1975-76 on capital account on the construction of youth hostels,

tourist bungalows, forest lodges, hotels, motels, mountain and beach resort development and provision of transport facilities as detailed below

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

1. Supplementary accommodation	Rs. 28.10 lakhs
(a) Tourist bungalows at:—	
(i) Gauhati	
(ii) Porbandar	
(iii) Dharamshala	
(iv) Ludhiana	
(v) Rameshwaram	
(vi) Darjeeling	
(vii) Warangal	
(viii) Sewagram	
(b) Youth hostels at —	
(i) Hyderabad	
(ii) Panchkula	
(iii) Travandrum	
(iv) Madras	
(v) Nainital	
(vi) Bhopal	
(c) Reception Centre at Jaipur	
(d) Camping Site at Bharatpur	
2. Beach and Mountain resorts development at Gulmarg, Kovalam, Goa, Kulu-Manali	Rs. 33.28 lakhs
3. Cultural Tourism	Rs. 3.67 lakhs
(a) Tourist Bungalow at Jaisalmer and Water supply at Khajuraho	
(b) Preparation of master plans of selected archaeological centres	
4. Wild Life Tourism	Rs. 42.68 lakhs
(a) Forest Lodges at:—	
(i) Kaziranga	
(ii) Sasangir	
(iii) Dandeli	
(iv) Jaldapara	
(v) Bharatpur	
(vi) Furnishing of forest lodges	
(b) Safari Park at Borivali	
TOTAL	Rs. 107.73 lakhs

II. I.T.D.C.

(a) Construction/expansion of hotels/motels/travellers' Lodges at : (Rs. in lakhs)

1. Dum Dum, Calcutta	41.00
2. Kovalam	44.00
3. Aurangabad	33.00
4. Ashoka Hotel at Bangalore	25.00
5. Reception-cum-motel at Patna	38.50
6. Expansion of Akbar Hotel, New Delhi	
7. Expansion of Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	
8. Expansion of Lalitha Mahal Palace hotel at Mysore	1.00
9. Expansion of Travellers' Lodge at Bhubaneswar	6.00
10. Expansion of Resort Complex at Kovalam	10.00
11. Hotel at New Delhi	
12. Hotel at Goa	2.00
13. Reception Centre-cum-Motel at Agra	16.50
14. Reception Centre-cum-Motel at Jaipur	15.00
15. Motel at Siliguri	2.50
16. Motel at Chandigarh	1.00
17. Motel at Ranchi	

(b) Additions/Alterations/Improvements to hotels

1. Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi	45.00
2. Akbar Hotel, New Delhi	8.00
3. Janpath, Rajni & Lodhi Hotels	15.00
4. Hotel Ashoka, Bangalore	5.00
5. Conversion of Lalitha Mahal Palace Mysore into a hotel	7.50
6. Completion of Khanuraho Hotel	..
7. Completion of Mahabalipuram shore-cottages	..
8. Renovation of Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	3.00
9. Other Units	9.00

TOTAL

323.00

i) Does not arise.

Report of Reserve Bank of India Co-operative Banks in Rajasthan

1160. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state,

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of Reserve Bank of India on Central Co-operative Banks in Rajasthan; and

(b) whether steps have been taken to see that these Central Co-operative Banks in Rajasthan provide credits to small farmers and Harijans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, the State Government of Rajasthan has issued an Ordinance on August 23, 1975 amending the State Co-operative Societies Act providing *inter alia* that at least one third of the members of the managing committee of a village service society primary land development bank and central co-operative bank shall be from weaker sections including small farmers, Harijans etc. It further provides that at least one third of total amount of loan to be sanctioned by a primary village credit society or a farmers service society in a year and not less than 25 per cent of the total amount of loans to be sanctioned by a primary land development bank in a year shall be sanctioned to those members who belong to weaker sections.

Credit given by Nationalised Banks to Poor Farmers in Tamil Nadu

1161 SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of money nationalised banks have given as credits to poor farmers in Tamil Nadu in order to implement their part of the Prime Minister's 20-point programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): Banks do not maintain separate statistics relating to advances provided by them to the rural poor under the Twenty Point Economic Programme. However, according to the latest information available, the amount of outstanding agricultural advances (direct) by public sector banks (including nationalised banks) in Tamil Nadu was Rs. 6714 crores (provisional as at the end of June, 1975).

Rate of Interest on Bank Loans

1162 DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal had urged upon him to lower the rate of interest of the Bank loans in order to have rapid industrialisation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government do not appear to have received any reference from Government of West Bengal suggesting a lowering of the rates of interest on bank loans with a view to promoting rapid industrialization.

राज्यों में क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक

1163. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) किस-किस राज्य में अब तक क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक खोले गये हैं, और

(ख) सभी राज्यों में ये बैंक कब तक कार्य करना आरम्भ कर देंगे ?

प्रत्येक और ब्रेकिंग... विमान के प्रवासी राज्य बंदी (श्री प्रबल कुमार मुखर्जी)
(क) अब तक, क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक
छ: राज्यों अर्थात् उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान
बिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल, हरयाणा और
मध्यप्रदेश में स्थापित किये गये हैं ;

(ख) जन शक्ति की कमी बाधक
न हुई तो सरकार का यह प्रयास होगा कि
देश के विभिन्न भागों के कारोबार के लिए
1 अप्रैल, 1977 तक 50 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण
बैंकों की स्थापना हो जाये।

Transfer Rules in I.T.D.C.

*1164. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHAS-
TRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM
AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to
state:

(a) whether in ITDC Headquarters
there are no Transfer Rules in black
and white for the employees of the
Corporation;

(b) whether the employees unions
affiliated to AITUC and INTUC are
demanding mutually agreed Transfer
Rules since long; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken
by the management so far to frame the
mutually agreed transfer Rules and
stop further transfers pending final-
isation of the mutually agreed rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND
CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SUREN-
DRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b)
Transfers of staff in India Tourism
Development Corporation are made
according to the operational require-
ments and administrative exigencies
The Staff Regulations of the Corpora-
tion provide that the employees are
liable to serve anywhere in India or
abroad in the service of the Corpora-
tion. Further, the employees are
required to accept in writing the terms
and conditions of their appointment
in India Tourism Development Cor-
poration, including the liability of
transfer to any part of India or
abroad. While the Unions have raised

some individual cases of transfer of
the employees, no formal demand for
mutually agreed transfer rules has
been made by them.

(c) Does not arise.

News Item Captioned "Onion Hack- teers Robbed Nation of Rs. 90 Lakhs"

1165. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will
the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the nation has lost
nearly Rs. 90 lakhs in foreign ex-
change as the exports of onion were
heavily underinvoiced;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry into
the matter has been made;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the measures proposed to be
taken to plug loopholes for future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) No specific case of under invoic-
ing of onion export has been brought
to the Government's notice.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) In order to plug loopholes in
the onion export trade, exports to
Malaysia and Singapore had been
canalised through the National Agri-
cultural Co-operative Marketing
Federation of India Ltd New Delhi,
from 16th November, 1974 With
effect from 5th December, 1975 ex-
ports to all other destinations have
also been so canalised.

Loans Granted by S.B.I. and Nationalised Banks to Farmers in Punjab

1166. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL
BHATIA: Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loans have been
granted by the State Bank of India
and the nationalised banks to farmers
in Punjab during 1974-75 and 1975-76;
and

(b) if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Particulars of direct

advances to farmers granted by the State Bank of India and the nationalised banks in Punjab and outstanding as at the end of June, 1974 and June 1975 are as under:

(Amounts in lakhs of rupees provisional)			
June, 1974		June, 1975	
No. of A/cs.	Balance outstanding	No. of A/cs.	Balance outstanding
State Bank of India	3368 90.77	6327	170.24
Nationalised Banks	19223 974.73	22521	1073.52

Annual Turnover of Public Sector Enterprises

1167. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual turnover of the Central Public Sector Enterprises is estimated to reach a new height of Rs. 8,000 crores during 1974-75 and the net profit before taxation would be around Rs. 300 crores;

(b) whether the turnover of these public sector concerns is expected to go beyond Rs. 10,000 crores in 1975-76; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this galloping sales figure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The annual turnover of the 128 Central Government Public Sector Enterprises (excluding 8 under construction) in 1974-75 is likely to be of the order of Rs. 10,266 crores and the net pre-tax profit of these enterprises in 1974-75 is likely to be of the order of Rs. 314 crores.

(b) Based on this achievement of 1974-75, the turnover for 1975-76 is likely to go much beyond Rs. 10,000 crores.

(c) The factors given below have accounted for about 30 per cent increase in turnover in 1974-75 from 1973-74 i.e., from Rs. 6810 crores in 1973-74 to Rs. 10,266 crores in 1974-75

- (1) Improvement in over-all capacity utilisation of manufacturing and mining enterprises.
- (2) Effects of increases in exports and imports through the trading organisations; and
- (3) Increase in prices of petroleum products, coal, steel etc.

Popularity of Indian Cotton Shirts and Cotton Dresses in Foreign Countries

1168. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.A. has emerged as a significant buyer of cotton shirts from India and these valued at about Rs. 7.2 crores in 1974-75;

(b) whether besides cotton shirts other cotton dresses like T. shirts, work shirts and undershirts are also finding good market in U.S.A.;

(c) whether besides U.S.A. these cotton units or varieties are also finding markets in U.K., Italy, Sweden, France, Germany, Iraq, Netherlands and Norway; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure that the exporters strictly adhere to quality?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) U.S.A. is one of the major importers of India's cotton shirts. Exports of cotton shirts to that country during 1974-75 amounted to Rs. 6.70 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is a Government agency called Textiles Committee which inspects textiles meant for exports, with a view to ensuring the quality of the textiles. In the case of garments, including cotton shirts, the cash assistance granted to the exporters by the industry is given only if Textiles Committee had inspected and approved the garments before export.

United Asian Bank

1169. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Asian Bank Berhad, in which the Indian Government has one third share, as reached the highest growth rate in less than 3 years and is ranked as the fourth largest bank in Malaysia;

(b) how many branches of this Bank are there in Malaysia at present; and

(c) whether the management of the banks is going to open more branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) to (c). United Asian Bank, Berhad, with minority shareholding by three of our public sector banks, is incorporated in Malaysia and is governed by Malaysian laws. The operational policies and programmes, including branch expansion of the bank, are decided by its Board of Directors, within the framework of banking policies laid down by the Central Bank of Malaysia.

Evaluation of Avros

1170. **SHRI DHAMANKAR:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether evaluation of Avros has been completed;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof;

(c) what is the present fleet of Avros with the Indian Airlines;

(d) how many more are proposed to be acquired to augment the fleet; and

(e) how far it is economical to operate it after the fuel price-hike?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is under examination.

(c) Indian Airlines have at present a fleet of 15 Avros.

(d) Indian Airlines have no plans to augment the strength of Avro fleet.

(e) The economics of operations with Avro aircraft during the years 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75 are given below:

	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
	(Rupees)	(in lakhs)	
1. Total operating cost	1361.69	1218.50	1763.48
2. Total revenue	941.24	711.69	1153.58
3. Total operating loss	420.45	506.81	609.90

The break-even load factor of Avro aircraft for 1974-75 was 100 per cent.

Steps to Uplift Cargo Backlog at International Airports

1171. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated steps to uplift the cargo backlogs at the three international airports; and

(b) whether garment backlog was creating problem at Delhi airport and 90 tonnes of leather goods are lying unlifted at Madras airport?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). In view of the unprecedented growth in the country's air exports, the cargo carrying capacity available in the scheduled services of all International Airlines, including Air India, was found inadequate to cope with the demand from Delhi, Madras and Calcutta airports. When the problem became acute in November, 1975 the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation by the Commerce Ministry, and several discussions were held. As a result of these discussions, Air India operated many special charter services from December, 1975. Some foreign airlines have also been permitted to operate additional cargo services from Delhi. For providing timely coverage for leather shipments from Madras, Air India have stepped up their charter services during January, 1976 and are planning to operate more freighter services during this month to increase their upliftings.

Draft Agreement Finalised by Association of Natural Rubber Producing countries

1172. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft agreement had been finalised by the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries at their Bangkok Conference;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) what is Government of India's stand on it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) In its meeting held in December, 1975, a Sub-Committee constituted by the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries finalised the draft International Rubber Agreement on Price Stabilisation. This, however, is yet to be approved by Member Countries intending to join the Agreement.

(b) The main feature of the Draft Agreement is the stabilisation of natural rubber prices through buffer stock and supply rationalisation measures.

(c) The Government of India have not yet taken a decision in the matter.

Market for Jute in Latin America and West Asia

1173. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether jute has captured a fresh market in Latin America and West Asia; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):**

(a) and (b). Trends in export of Indian jute goods to Latin America and West Asia are detailed below:

	Quantity (000 tonnes)			Value (Rs. lakhs)		
	L.A.	W.A.	Total	L.A.	W.A.	Total
1972-73 . . .	5.7	26.0	31.7	320	1130	1450
1973-74 . . .	19.7	22.1	41.8	785	907	1692
1974-75 . . .	21.1	43.3	64.4	1203	2359	3562
1975-76 (Provisional for April-October)	6.0	14.6	20.6	314	689	1003

It would be seen that exports had substantially increased in 1974-75 as compared to those in 1972-73 and 1973-74, but the performance so far in 1975-76 has not been encouraging.

The decline is attributable to competition from synthetics as well as from other producers.

Excise Duty on High Speed Diesel Oil

1174. **SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given partial exemption from payment of excise duty on high speed diesel Oil used by large sized fishing boats;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has represented to the Central Government to extend this exemption to smaller vessels also; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Refined Diesel Oil and Diesel Oil, not otherwise specified, used by

fishing vessels of not less than 13.7 metres in length with not less than 150 B.H.P. engines, designed for deep-sea fishing, are exempt from 50 per cent of the basic duty of excise leviable thereon, subject to certain conditions, and the remission of the remaining 50 per cent of the duty on oil utilised by those vessels is allowed in those cases where proof of export of 'shrimp' at the rate of one tonne of 'shrimp' for every 1.08 kilolitres of oil used, is produced.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The matter is being examined.

Loan Granted by I.F.C. to Eastern and North Eastern Region States

1175. **SHRI A K KISKU:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the particulars of loan granted by the Industrial Finance Corporation to Eastern and North Eastern Region States for the Projects in backward Districts, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): The information regarding total financial assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Finance Corporation for the projects located in the backward districts of the Eastern and North

Eastern Region States is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10221/76].

Sick Mills helped by Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India

1176. SHRI A. K. KISKU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick mills in the public and private sector helped by the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India during the last three years, State-wise, with particular reference to West Bengal; and

(b) the result achieved by these units, State-wise with the finances provided by Industrial Reconstruction Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) During the years 1973, 1974 and 1975, IRCI disbursed assistance to sixty-three sick industrial units. Of these fifty-four units are situated in West Bengal, one unit each in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Gujarat and Punjab and two units each in Bihar and Maharashtra. The State-wise list of industrial concerns given assistance during these years with the amounts of assistance disbursed is indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10222/76].

IRCI has not so far given financial assistance to any industrial units in the public sector.

(b) The reconstruction programmes generally have to provide a gestation period of about three years or more before the effect of the reconstruction is felt. Of the units so far assisted by the Corporation, fourteen units have reported cash profits in the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 consecutively. The state-wise list of assisted units

which showed cash profits during 1973-74 and 1974-75 (July to June) is indicated as follows:—

STATE	Rs. in lakhs	
	1973-74 (July-June)	1974-75 (July-June)
West Bengal	13	11
Delhi	1	1
Maharashtra	—	1
Punjab	—	1
	14	14

Accumulation of Stocks of Non-controlled Cloth

1177. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether stocks of unsold cotton cloth of non-controlled varieties have mounted up;

(b) if so, what is the stock of non-controlled varieties up-to-date lying in the mills; and

(c) the reasons for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The total stocks of non-controlled cotton cloth stood at 202,100 bales at the end of November 1975, registering a downward trend from the peak figure of 226,900 bales at the end of September, 1975. These include some quantities sold but remaining unlifted with the mills.

(c) Does not arise.

Consumption Loan to Farmers from Rural Banks

1178. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the details of the consumption loan, which help farmers to

meet emergency expenses from the Rural Banks have been finalised; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In the initial guidelines issued by Government to Regional Rural Banks, it has been laid down that limited quantities of consumption loans may be given in suitable cases, but they should be confined to meeting contingent expenditure only for (a) educational requirements and (b) medical attention. It has also been made clear that subsistence loans given to small borrowers during the process of production need not be treated as consumption loans but as part of production loans.

Seizure of Gold etc., by Income Tax Authorities in Rampur

1179. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Authorities recovered gold and silver coins worth lakhs of rupees in the month of December, 1975 from the residence of a seller of parched grams and groundnuts in or around Rampur; and

(b) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Contracts for Export of Mica

1180. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new contracts for export of mica worth about Rs. 10

crores have been finalised with Soviet Union and some East European countries;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreements; and

(c) whether Government have a plan to enter into more such agreements in the near future with some other countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The information is as under:—

Country	Value of new Contracts
	(Rs. lakhs)
(i) U.S.S.R. . . .	763.50
(ii) Poland	66.94
(iii) Rumania	48.46
(iv) G.D.R.	37.87
(v) Czechoslovakia . .	19.94
TOTAL	936.71

(c) Yes, Sir.

Filling up of vacancies for the posts of Clerks and Typists in SBI, Darbhanga

1181. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to filling up vacancies of 36 posts of Clerks and Typists, written and oral tests were taken by the State Bank of India (Darbhanga, Bihar) on the 18th June, 1971 and 25th February, 1972 respectively;

(b) whether out of four successful Scheduled Caste candidates, not a single person was appointed even though 22½ per cent of seats were reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the defaulting officers and remedial measures for recruiting the Scheduled Caste candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). State Bank of India has reported that a written test was held at Darbhanga for recruitment of Clerk-Typists on 18th July, 1971 after notifying vacancies to the Employment Exchanges. Out of five Scheduled Caste candidates who appeared for the written test, only one qualified after the written test, interview and typing test and was appointed.

Modernisation of Textile Industry in Punjab

1182. **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA.** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Textile Industry in Punjab is going to be modernised soon to enable it to produce goods which will attract foreign markets, and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)

(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Projects Sanctioned in Punjab by Agricultural Refinance Corporation

1183 **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA.** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects have been sanctioned by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation for Punjab during 1974-75;

(b) if so, whether any financial aid was also sanctioned; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) During the Co-operative year 1974-75, the Agricultural Refinance & Development Corporation had sanctioned 15 schemes for agricultural development in Punjab.

(b) Refinance assistance to the extent of Rs 566.28 lakhs was sanctioned to the financing banks which had sponsored the above schemes

(c) The scheme-wise particulars of financial assistance as well as the commitment by Agricultural Refinance & Development Corporation are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Schemes sanctioned during 1974-75 for Punjab by Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation

(Rupees in lakhs)		
Purpose	Financial assistance	Refinance sanctioned
I. Minor Irrigation	597.59	478.08
II. Farm Mechanisation	55.66	41.75
III. Dairy Development	30.00	30.00
IV. Schemes sanctioned to State Co-operative Bank	18.28	16.45
TOTAL	701.53	566.28

Supply of Yarn to Punjab for Woollen Mills

1184 **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA.** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any yarn has been supplied to Punjab for woollen mills during 1974-75; and

(b) whether any allocation of yarn has been made during 1974-75 to the woollen mills of the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER, IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). There is no control on production, price and distribution of woollen yarn. As such, the question of supply of woollen yarn under any statutory order for the periods mentioned in the question does not arise. While spinning mills working on the woollen system meet their requirements from indigenous sources, those in the worsted and shoddy sectors have to depend on imported raw material, the quantity of which depends on the availability of foreign exchange, for Actual users and on the export of woollen goods, since exporters are allowed to import raw material as import replenishment under the Import Policy for Registered Exporters

12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS OF LIC AND UNITED INDIA FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD. MADRAS WITH AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT ACT AND CENTRAL EXCISE RULES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1975 along with the Audited Accounts, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10206/76].

(2) A copy of the Annual Report of the United India Fire and General Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year 1973 along with the Audited Accounts and the com-

ments of the Comptroller and Auditor General, thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10207/76].

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—

(i) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. 12/E6-C.E. [G.S.R. 36(E)] in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1976.

(ii) Notification No. 13/76-C.E. [G.S.R. 36(E)] published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1976.

(4) A copy of Notification No. 14/76-C.E. [G.S.R. 37(E)] published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 1976 issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944.

(5) A copy of the Explanatory memorandum (Hindi and English versions) relating to the Notifications mentioned at (3) and (4) above [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10208/76]

ANNUAL REPORTS OF AIR INDIA AND INDIAN AIRLINES FOR 1974-75 WITH CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953:—

(i) Annual Report of the Air India for the year 1974-75.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines for the year 1974-75. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10209/76].

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953:—

(i) Certified Accounts of the Air India for the year 1974-75 together with the Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Certified Accounts of the Indian Airlines for the year 1974-75 together with the Audited Report thereon [Place in Library. See No LT-10210/76]

REVIEWS AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF HANDICRAFTS AND HANDLOOMS EXPORTS CORPORATION LTD., NEW DELHI, MINERALS AND METALS TRADING CORPORATION LTD., NEW DELHI FOR 1974-75, ANNUAL REPORT OF TEA BOARD FOR 1972-73 AND COFFEE BOARD FOR 1974-75 AND NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EXPORT (QUALITY CONTROL AND INSPECTION) ACT, 1963

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1974-75

(ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi, for the year 1974-75 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library See No LT-10211/76].

(b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Min-

erals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1974-75.

(ii) Annual Report of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1974-75 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10212/76].

(2) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board for the year 1972-73. [Placed in Library. See No LT-10213/76].

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board for the year 1974-75. [Placed in Library See No. LT-10214/76].

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:—

(i) The Export of Refractory Bricks (Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1975, published in Notification No S.O. No 2739 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1975.

(ii) The Export of Laminated Jute Products (Inspection) Rules, 1975, published in Notification No SO 4068 in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 1975.

(iii) The Export of Domestic Refrigerators (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1975, published in Notification No. S.O. 5228 in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 1975.

(iv) The Export Inspection Council Contributory Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1975, published in Notification No. S.O.

5344 in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 1975.

(v) The Export Inspection Agency Contributory Provident Fund (Amendments) Rules, 1975, published in Notification No. S.O. 5421 in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1975.

(vi) The Export of De oiled Rice Bran (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules 1976, published in Notification No. S.O. 157 in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 1976. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10215/76].

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL. Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th January, 1976, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 22nd January, 1976, agreed without any amendment to the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th January, 1976."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, 1976, which has been passed by that Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st January, 1976."

DELHI RENT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL. Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINTH REPORT

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): I beg to present the Hundred and eighty-ninth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Hundred and forty-fifth Report on Posts and Telegraphs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

FOURTEENTH REPORT

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Behar): I beg to present the Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): With your permission, Sir, I

[Shri K. Raghu Ramaiah]

rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 27th January, 1976, will consist of:—

(1) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1975 and consideration and passing of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

(2) Discussion and voting on:

(a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Nagaland) for 1975-76.

(b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Pondicherry) for 1975-76.

(3) Consideration and passing of the Assam Sillimanite Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Refractories Plant) Bill, 1976.

(4) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(5) Consideration and passing of the following Bills in replacement of Ordinances together with the Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval thereof:

(i) The Press Council (Repeal) Bill, 1976.

(ii) The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Bill, 1976.

(iii) The Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Bill, 1976.

(iv) The Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(v) The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(6) Consideration and passing of:

(i) The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Bill, 1976.

(ii) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1976 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I have a request to make to you and not to the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Not on this statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not speaking on this. I have a separate request to make to you that some discussion was promised in this House by the hon. Minister. It was also agreed and that was regarding discussion on sugarcane; We also want some sort of a discussion on the closure, retrenchment and lay-off in Textile Mills. You may kindly suggest that we should table a motion. We have tabled a motion. I would now request you....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, let us not raise it here. We shall consider this; if you have anything to talk to the Minister please do so. The House has already agreed that in order to save the time of the House, first you might talk to the Minister. You should have talked to him on Thursday.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: By the time I talk, another week will be lost.

MR. SPEAKER: You should have talked to him yesterday. Now, the hon. Minister, Shri Raghu Ramaiah, about the presentation of Report.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-eighth Report of the Busi-

ness Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 22nd January, 1976."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 22nd January, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (NAGALAND), 1975-76

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Nagaland for the year 1975-76.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PONDICHERRY), 1975-76

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the year 1975-76.

12.05 hrs.

PRESS COUNCIL (REPEAL) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Press

Council Act, 1965, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Press Council Act, 1965, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
Sir, I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT RE. PRESS COUNCIL (REPEAL) ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Press Council (Repeal) Ordinance, 1975.

12.06 hrs.

INDIAN RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to replace the Indian Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 1975, which was promulgated by the President on the 25th September, 1975.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 23-1-76.

[Shri Kamalapati Tripathi]

Experience has shown that at times and in certain areas, goods are not promptly unloaded from the railway wagons and are not promptly removed from the goods-sheds. There is a tendency on the part of the traders to use railway wagons and goods-sheds as warehouses. The congestion in goods-sheds results in detention to wagons in the yards. The congestion in the serving yard further sets in motion a chain reaction of hold-up of loaded wagons en-route and restrictions on fresh bookings. Moreover, and more important, non-removal or slow removal of goods from stations may also result in scarcity of those goods in the market. Unsocial elements try to create such an artificial scarcity. This House has expressed concern in the past about such accumulation of goods and wagons at important rail terminals.

The normal procedure for disposal of unclaimed goods is laid down in section 56Y read with section 55(2) of the Indian Railways Act. Compliance of procedure laid down in these sections is time consuming and takes at least 4 to 6 weeks before goods can be auctioned. The existing law also does not empower the administration to dispose of goods, even the essential commodities, otherwise than by public auction.

The Bill now gives powers to the Central Government to notify certain stations where goods can be disposed of more speedily, if the same are not removed within seven days after termination of transit. The Bill contains adequate safeguards to protect the interest of genuine trade. Special provision has been made in respect of essential commodities. If any essential commodities remain undelivered for more than seven days after termination of transit, the Central Government or the State Government can direct the railway administration to transfer them to it or to such agency, cooperative society or other person under its control on payment

of fair-price. The owner of the goods is entitled to receive the price or sale proceeds of such goods after payment of charges due to the railway administration.

The scheme does not hamper normal trade in any way and is in the best public interest. The special procedure laid down in the Bill does not apply to all stations, but only to few notified stations. At present, only 14 stations have been notified. The powers conferred by the Bill would be invoked only to deal with abnormal situations when the wagons are misused by some persons as godowns.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

श्री रामबातार शास्त्री (पटना) :
अध्यक्ष जी, भारतीय रेलवे कानून, 1890 में संशोधन करने पर यह सदन विचार कर रहा है। यह विधेयक सही दिशा की ओर इंगित कर रहा है और इसमें जो बातें कही गई हैं, वे मोटी-मोटी ठीक हैं। इस विधेयक का समर्थन करने हुए मैं कुछ बातों की तरफ संत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

इस विधेयक में यह कहा गया है कि अगर कोई व्यवसायी अपने माल को 7 दिन तक छुड़ा कर नहीं ले जायेगा, तो रेलवे को उसे नीलाम करने का अधिकार होगा। यह बिल्कुल ठीक है। इसमें यह भी कहा गया है कि नीलाम करने की एक तिथि निर्धारित की जायेगी और वह तिथि 7 दिन के बाद होगी। अगर इस बीच में माल का माफिल माल छुड़ाने के लिये पहुँच जायेगा, तो तमाम चार्जिज लेकर उसको वह माल दे दिया जायेगा। इस विधेयक में इस बात की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है कि नीलाम करने से पहले की अवधि में जो माल पड़ा रह जायेगा,

उसका डैमरेज लिया जायेगा या नहीं। मैं तो यह चाहता हूँ कि अगर कोई मुनाफा खोर 7 दिन तक खाने पीने का समान, कपड़ा, खाद्यान्न, प्याज आदि आवश्यक वस्तुओं को नहीं लेता है, तो फिर वे चीजें उसको नहीं दी जानी चाहिये। लेकिन अगर सरकार यहां तक जाने के लिये तैयार नहीं है, तो कम-से-कम उस से डैमरेज तो वसूल करना ही चाहिये। वास्तव में होना तो यह चाहिये कि 7 दिन के बाद वह माल मुनाफाखोर को न दिया जाये।

आखिर कौन लोग इस तरह अपने माल को वीगन्स में छोड़ देते हैं ? जो ज्यादा पैसे वाले, बड़े-बड़े व्यापारी और मुनाफाखोर हैं। कलकत्ता में पूजा के समय कपड़ा, कड़वा तेल और दूसरी चीजों की कीमतें बहुत बढ़ जाती हैं। पिछले कुछ महीनों से पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में प्याज की कीमत बहुत बढ़ी हुई है। दिल्ली में वह इस समय 3, 3 1/2 रुपये के भाव से बिक रहा है। उसकी कीमत 5 रुपये किलो तक चली गई थी। सब की कीमत तो कम है और प्याज की ज्यादा ये बड़े बड़े मुनाफा खोर रेलवे के अधिकारियों से दोस्ती कर के, उनको कुछ ले देकर अपना माल वीगन्स में रख देते हैं, जिसका असर महंगाई के रूप से आम जनता पर पड़ता है। सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर गया है, लेकिन इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि इस बारे में सख्ती से कार्यवाही की जाये, ताकि त्यौहारों के समय चीजों की बनावटी कमी को रोका जा सके। यह भी देखना चाहिये कि नीलाम करने की जवाबदेही जिन अधिकारियों पर हो, वे ईमानदार हों। हम जानते हैं कि अधिकारियों में भ्रष्टे और बुरे दोनों प्रकार के लोग हैं। जो अधिकारी भ्रष्ट तरीके इस्तेमाल करते हैं और मजदूरों से सहयोग करने के लिये तैयार नहीं हैं, उनके पीछे लट्ठ लेकर पड़े रहते हैं, उनको यह जवाब देही न दी जाये। इस विधेयक के अनुसार, वे अधिकारी भारत सरकार और राज्य सरकार के प्रति-

निधियो तथा जिला मजिस्ट्रेट को नीलाम के बारे में सूचना देंगे। यह बात समझ में नहीं आती कि इन तीनों का को-ऑर्डिनेशन कैसे होगा। इसमें कहा गया है कि तीनों मिलकर इस तरह को-ऑर्डिनेशन करें कि सामान की ठीक से बिक्री हो सके और उसकी ठीक कीमत मिले। हम चाहेंगे कि मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में सफाई दें कि इन तीनों का को-ऑर्डिनेशन किस प्रकार होगा ?

इस विधेयक में किसी सजा का प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। मान लीजिये कि रेलवे एडवर्टाइजमेंट देती है और रजिस्ट्री के द्वारा खबर भी देती है कि अमुक व्यक्ति का माल पड़ा हुआ है, वह उसको ले जाये। अगर तब भी वह व्यक्ति अपना माल नहीं ले जाता है, तो उसको प्रीक्शन कर दिया जायेगा। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि ऐसे व्यापार के खिलाफ कुछ और सजा का प्रावधान भी होना चाहिये; ताकि वह भागे इस तरह की हरकत करने की हिम्मत न कर सके।

मैं समझता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय ने यह बिल लाकर ठीक किया है। लेकिन हमने देखा है कि भ्रष्टे-भ्रष्टे कानूनों का कार्यान्वयन ठीक प्रकार से नहीं हो पाता है। इसलिये अगर इस विधेयक को कार्यान्वित करने वाली मशीनरी ठीक रहेगी, तो इसका मकसद पूरा हो सकेगा, वरना यह कानून केवल किताब में ही रहेगा, और बड़े-बड़े शहरों में चीजों के भाव बढ़ते रहेंगे, पूजा और होली आदि त्यौहारों के अवसर पर चीजों की कमी हो जायेगी और आम जनता महंगाई से पिसी रहेगी।

अन्त में मैं फिर कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस कार्य की जवाब देही ईमानदार अफसरों पर डाली जाये, ताकि वे इसको मुस्तवी के साथ पूरा करें।

बी जयन्ताच सिंध (भुवनेश्वरी) अध्यक्ष महोदय, इससे पहले के मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करूँ, मैं अपना पुनीत कर्तव्य समझता हूँ कि मैं पूरव रेलवे मंत्री महोदय और उनके द्वारा संचालित रेलवे के विलक्षण कार्य की तारीफ करूँ।

मुझे आशा थी कि पंडित जी अपने इस विधेयक को उसी भाषा में ही हाउस में पेश करेंगे, जिसमें उनकी बराबर अभि-
रुचि रही है।

रेलवे कानून 1890 में बना था। उसको अब 100 बरस पूरे होने को आ गये हैं। ये सारे नियम और कानून पुराने हैं उस जमाने के हैं, जिसकी चर्चा भी अब बेकार है। इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि नये सिरे से इन नियमों का पुनरावलोकन किया जाये और नये नियम बनाये जाये जिससे मुसाफिरो, आम जनता और सरकारी अधिकारियों को भी सहजियत हो। सरकारी अधिकारियों से मेरी कोई दुश्मनी या झगडा नहीं है। आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि सब को उचित हक मिले और सुन्दर ढंग में कार्य संचालन हो। मुझे उम्मीद है कि पंडित जी के समय में यह होकर रहेगा और यह शीघ्र होगा।

पंडित जी ने यह विधेयक लाकर अपनी बुद्धिमत्ता का परिचय दिया है। अगर यह विधेयक और कुछ पहले लाया जाता तो रेलवे से अब तक जो घाटा हुआ है, वह न होता और रेलवे नफे में रहती, लेकिन बेर आवद दुस्त अत्यद। वह आज लाया गया है तो भी ठीक है।

अब होता यह है कि रेलवे कर्मचारियों और मुसाफिरों में अनुचित सम्बन्ध रहता है, क्लेन-केव, का सम्बन्ध रहता है, जिसके अन्तर्गत सरकारी माल को स्टेशन पर पड़ा रहने देते हैं और उसकी किसी चीज़ नहीं लेते हैं, जिसके कारण माल का स्टॉक जमा

हो जाता है। स्टेशन पर इतनी जमा नहीं होती है और न ही सरकार के पास इतने बैग्स हैं। इसका सबसे बुरा असर सोकेट पर पड़ता है। इसका भुक्तभोगी आम जनता को होता पड़ता है। बाजार में चीजों का अभाव हो जाता है और जब उनके दाम बढ़ जाते हैं, तो व्यापारी जल्दी से अपना माल छुड़ा कर पैसा बटोरने में लग जाते हैं। इस विधेयक में कहा गया है कि जो माल 7 दिन में नहीं छुड़ाया जायेगा, उसको नीलाम कर दिया जायेगा लेकिन व्यवसायी का भी कोई कष्ट नहीं है। हम उनको सूचित करेंगे अगर उन को ठीक समय पर सूचना नहीं मिली लेकिन नीलाम की डेट के पहले वह आ जाते हैं तो रेट के हिसाब से धन दे कर और जितना रेलवे को घाटा हुआ है वह सारा घाटा दे कर वह माल लेना चाहते हैं तो उन्हें उस माल को देने में रेलवे को कोई आपत्ति नहीं होगी।

इस विधेयक में नियम है कि अगर कोई मामान नीलाम होने को है और उस ज़रूरत केन्द्रीय सरकार को है तो केन्द्रीय सरकार उस को लेने की पूर्ण हकदार है। अगर वह स्टेशन जिस स्टेट में पड़ता है उस स्टेट को उसकी ज़रूरत है तो वह भी उसे लेने का हकदार है। किन्तु यदि विवाद इस सबब में उत्पन्न है, केन्द्रीय सरकार और प्रदेश सरकार दोनों ही उस को लेना चाहती है तो इस में ऐसा प्रबन्धान है कि पहले जिन की मांग आयी उस को ही सामान दिया जायगा। मैं इसे भी बड़ा ही न्यायोचित और ठीक मानता हूँ।

रेलवे के सबब में अब हम बात करें तो हमें हमेशा ही सोचना होगा कि यह राष्ट्र की सम्पत्ति है और इस को रक्षा हमारी अपनी रक्षा है। इसीलिए अगर रेलवे के संचालन में किसी तरह की अड़बट होती है तो हम केवल रेलवे को दोष देकर ही संतुष्ट नहीं

जानूँ, मैं समझता हूँ इसके लिए हमें प्रयास करना होगा और ऐसा प्रयत्न करना होगा कि हम उसको रोक सकें और रेलवे के स्वस्थ संचालन में अफ़सोसजनक सहयोग प्रदान कर सकें।

लेकिन एक चीज़ है। माल ज़िम स्टेशन से बूक हो वहाँ से जिस स्टेशन पर उसे धाना है वहाँ अगर वह समय पर नहीं आया या सम्बद्ध व्यवसायी को इस की जानकारी नहीं दी गई तो उस का दोषी कौन होगा? अगर रेलवे दोषी है तो रेलवे को भी उस दोष का दण्ड भोगना होगा। किम के कारण वह माल समय पर नहीं पहुँचा, इस का पना लगाना होगा और मैं समझता हूँ कि ईमानदारी का तकाजा है कि अगर व्यवसायी का दोष नहीं है तो हम व्यवसायी को दोषी घोषित न करें न उसे दण्डित करें। बल्कि जो दोषी है उसको दण्डित करें। इतना ही नहीं विलम्ब से माल पहुँचने के कारण जो उसको नुकसान होता है रेलवे को चाहिये कि उस का वह कम्पेन्सेशन भी दे।

अभी यह विधेयक देश के सभी स्टेशनों पर लागू नहीं हुआ है। केवल 14 स्टेशनों पर ही लागू हुआ है। यह सिर्फ 56 ए मे बी, सी, डी, ई को ही जोड़ा गया है इसलिए कि इसकी जाच हो सके कि बर्हो ट्रैफिक और स्टोरेज की क्या कैपेसिटी है, माल जो धाया है वह कैसा माल है, वह क्या एशेशियल कम्पोजिटी की चीज़ है या नहीं, उस माल को स्टेशन में रखने से हमें कितना घाटा हो सकता है, कितने वैन हमारे उस में रुके पड़े रहेंगे ये तमाम चीज़ें जिस से देखी जा सकें।

बीकानेर के संबंध में एक बात और मैं कहूँगा। पहले 25 बर्कनार के बीकानेर के बीच

उन की संख्या घट गई है। मैं नहीं जानता इस का क्या कारण हो सकता है। यह मैं जानना चाहूँगा ऐसा क्यों हुआ है?

अन्य में मैं यह निवेदन करूँगा कि इस विधेयक का लक्ष्य है कि समय समय पर ऐसा कानून बनाया जाय जिस से इस के कार्य संचालन में मदद हो। तो इस का जो मंशा है वह बड़ा पवित्र है, बड़ा अच्छा है और अगर यह देर से भी आया तो भी बहुत ठीक समय पर आया है। इस का कार्यान्वयन मुस्तीदी से होना चाहिये। मुस्तीदी से कार्यान्वयन होता नहीं है। 1972 में इस विधेयक के अलावा और भी विधेयक इस हाउस में पारित हुए थे लेकिन उन का कार्यान्वयन ठीक से नहीं हो सका। इसलिए हम जहाँ थे वहाँ रह गए। इस बार ऐसा न हो, कड़ाई से इस नियम का पालन हो और मुस्तीदी से काम हो तो मैं समझता हूँ कि व्यवसायी भी बाटे में नहीं रहेंगे धाम जनता को भी फायदा होगा और रेलवे को तो घाटा होगा ही नहीं। रेलवे को घाटा न हो यह देखना हमारे प्रधान कर्तव्य होता है क्योंकि रेलवे हमारे राष्ट्र की सबसे बड़ी सम्पत्ति है और उसका संचालन ठीक से होता है तो मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि देश का मंचालन ठीक से होता है, यह मेरा विश्वास है। इस शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : (गोरखपुर)

अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो यह संशोधन मंत्री जी ने मदन के सामने रखा है यह सर्वथा उचित संशोधन है। मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि इस संशोधन को लाने की आवश्यकता इसलिए भी थी कि हर माल रेलवे को करोड़ों रुपये का डेमरेंज व्यवसायियों को देना पड़ता था और डेमरेंज इसलिए भी देना पड़ता था कि बहुत से व्यवसायी पेरिशेबल और नान-पेरिशेबल माल को गोदामों में ही छोड़ देते थे और उस का बोव देन केन प्रकारण उस

[श्री नारायण सिंह पांडे]

पर क्लेम की मांग रेलवे के सामने रखते थे जो करोड़ों रुपये का क्लेम होता था। आप गृहरा स्टेशन को जानते हैं जो आप के बिहार में पड़ता है और इसी तरह से मोगलसराय स्टेशन जहाँ पर कि ट्रांशिपमेंट होता है एन ई आर और एन आर का ये बहुत बड़े क्लेम के सेंटर बन गए थे। ग्रनक्लेम्ड गुड्स जान-बूझकर व्यवसायी वहाँ लाकर रखते थे। कम रुपये का सामान भजने थे और इस बात की मांग करते थे कि हमारा सामान इतने रुपये का है। वह भाल सड़ जाता था, जनता के काम नहीं आता था और इस तरह से जनता की जरूरत का मामान जनता के बीच में वितरण नहीं हो पाता था जिस से एक बनावटी तरीके से हमारे देश में एक ऐसा स्थिति पैदा होती थी जिसमें दाम उत्तरोत्तर बढ़ने जाते थे। इन तमाम चीजों को रोकने के लिए यह जो अमेडमेंट लाया गया है यह बहुत ही मुनासिब अमेडमेंट है और इसमें मैं समझता हूँ विशेष किसी चर्चा की तो जरूरत नहीं। लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्लेम के डिपोजिट का जो सवाल होता था आज भी जो आप के मंत्रालय के सामने करोड़ों रुपये के रूप में होगा उसमें आप के अधिकारी और वे व्यवसायी जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने अभी कहा आपस में गठजोड़ कर लेते थे। कुछ दिन पहले के भूतपूर्व रेलमंत्री जब ललित बाबू थे तो मैं ने इसी तरह के मामले को उन के सामने रखा था जिस में कि व्यवसायी ने बिना किसी पैसे के गुड्स क्लर्क से मिल करके करोड़ों रुपये के सामान की बिल्टी आर० आर० बनवा कर भेज दिया और बाद में पता चला कि यह सामान कहीं है ही नहीं? वही एग्जिस्ट्स में ही वह सामान नहीं था। इस तरह से एक रैकेट रेलवे में चला करता था। मैं समझता हूँ कि इन तमाम चीजों के ऊपर रोक लगा दी गई है और ऐसे व्यवसायी जो राष्ट्रद्रोह का

काम करते थे, जो राष्ट्र में ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा करते थे जिस से सामानों को एक जगह से दूसरी जगह न पहुँचाया जा सके, एक जगह स्टोरेज किया जाय और ऐसा कर के एक कृत्रिम अभाव की स्थिति पैदा की जाय माननीय मंत्री जी ने इस सशोधन को लाकर वे उस परिस्थिति को दूर करने की चेष्टा इस अपातकालीन स्थिति में की है जिस से मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि आज की इस देश की परिस्थिति में उन्होंने एक बड़ा भारी योगदान दिया है।

रेलवे ऐक्ट जो है यह बड़ा पुराना ऐक्ट बना हुआ है। आज तक उस ऐक्ट में किसी तरह का सशोधन नहीं रखा गया। रेलवे बोर्ड बना हुआ है। आज यह बात साफ तरीके से सब के सामने जाहिर आती है कि रेलवे बोर्ड जो है वह मंत्रालय के भी ऊपर है। जो पुराने कानून ब्रिटिश काल में बनाए गए थे बल्कि मैं तो ऐसा मानता हूँ कि ईस्ट इंडिया कम्पनी के समय के बने हुए कानून अभी तक चले आ रहे हैं, अगर उन कानूनों में सशोधन नहीं किया गया, रेलवे मंत्रालय को एक स्वतंत्र मंत्रालय के रूप में कार्य करने के लिए उसे प्रभावित नहीं किया गया, कानून की रूपरेखा में आमूलचूल परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया तो जो प्रगति हम करना चाहते हैं उस को करने में और जो मान्यताएँ आप ने स्थापित की हैं उन को प्राप्त करने में दिक्कत और कठिनाई पड़ेगी मैं माननीय मंत्री जी यह अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि निकट भविष्य में उन पुराने कानूनों में सशोधन लाएँ जिस के द्वारा रेलवे बोर्ड को जो शक्ति मिली हुई है उस शक्ति को रेल मंत्रालय के अंदर निहित किया जाय और रेल मंत्री उस के ऊपर सब से ऊँचा अधिकारी हो जो उस के कार्य के संचालन में ठीक तरह से अपना योगदान दे सके। इस सब में आप ऐसा कोई विधेयक से आये ऐसी हम आशा करते हैं। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ

श्रीर माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि यह विधेयक ला कर उन्होंने बड़ा अच्छा काम किया है।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बोरवा (कोटा)

यह जो बिल यहाँ पर लाया गया है उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ। अच्छा होता अगर बहुत दिनों पहले ही यह आ गया होता और आज रेलवे की इनकम में जो घाटा पड़ता है वह वह भी पूरा हो सकता था। इसमें शोभ की यह बात जरूर है कि इसको केवल 14 स्टेशन्स पर ही लागू किया गया है। मैं समझता हूँ जितने भी बड़े बड़े स्टेशन हैं सभी डिवीजनों में सभी जगह इसको लागू करना चाहिए क्योंकि सिर्फ 14 स्टेशन्स ही नहीं हैं जहाँ पर माल चढ़ता और उतरता है आज तक तो हर डिवीजन में हर जगह माल चढ़ता और उतरता है। इस कानून को लागू करने से पहले हमें यह भी सोचना पड़ेगा कि हमारे माल गोदाम कितने लम्बे चौड़े और बड़े हैं और वहाँ पर कितना माल उतारा जा सकता है। क्योंकि आज हालत यह है कि माल डिब्बों में पड़ा रहता है और डिब्बे साइडिंग में पड़े रहते हैं। इन्डेंट लगा होता है लेकिन डिब्बे साइडिंग में ही पड़े रहते हैं। नतीजा होता है माल धीरे धीरे सड़ जाता है। जब माल सड़ जाता है तब उसको साइडिंग में लगा कर माल खाली करने का धाड़ें मिलता है। दूसरी तरफ जो व्यापारी होते हैं वह परेशान हो जाते हैं। और वह चक्कर लगाते रहते हैं। साइडिंग वाले उनको लेकर बैठे रहते हैं। केला, आम जैसी जो वस्तुएँ होती हैं, चूँकि उस समय गर्मी का सीजन भी होता है इसलिए वह सड़ जाती है।

अब जो धाड़ें दिया जायेगा कि व्यापारी अपना माल उठाकर ले जाये उसके लिए सात दिन कब से गिने जायेंगे। माल गोदाम में उतर जायेगा तब से माने जायेंगे या डिब्बा साइडिंग में आ जायेगा

तब से गिने जायेंगे। अब इसमें तीन स्टेशन्स होती हैं जिनमें तालमेल किस प्रकार से होगा एक तो कन्टेन्टर के धादमी होते हैं जोकि डिब्बे को खाली करते हैं। साइडिंग में लगाने के लिए हमारे रेलवे के धादमी होते

और फिर माल को ले जाने के लिए व्यापारी के धादमी होते हैं। सवाल है तीनों में तालमेल कैसे बैठेगा। या तो फिर जो लेबर है वह रेलवे की हो जोकि सारे काम को करे। कन्टेन्टर तो उमकी परवाह नहीं करता है क्योंकि उसके पास 10 वैगन लगे रहते हैं और लेबर थोड़ी होती है। उसको चार दिन वैगन खाली करने में ही लग जाते हैं। अगर रेलवे की लेबर हो तो जरूरत पड़ने पर 8 की जगह 20 लगाये जा सकते हैं। हमने देखा है अनाज खुले में पड़ा रहता है और भीगता सड़ता रहता है, उनको रखने के लिए गोदाम नहीं होते हैं। हम मालिक से कह सकते हैं कि सात दिन में माल उठाओ, उस पर हम जर्माना कर सकते हैं लेकिन माल खाली करने के लिए गोदाम में जगह नहीं होती है। जब तक जगह होती है तब तक माल डिब्बों में ही ही पड़ा रहता है। तो सात दिन का समय कब से लागू होगा यह इसमें साफ साफ बताया जाता। मालिक को कब इन्डेंट दे, कब से खाली करवायें इस चीज को जो वहाँ के स्थानीय अखबार हैं उनमें निकालना बहुत जरूरी है क्योंकि इस प्रकार से हर एक व्यापारी को उसका पता चल जायेगा। अगर आपने केवल नोटिसबोर्ड पर ही लगा दिया तो उसका कोई लाभ नहीं होगा। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि इसकी सूचना स्थानीय अखबारों में जरूर दी जानी चाहिए जिससे कि मालिक को पता पड़ जाये कि मेरा माल डिब्बे में पड़ा है। साथ ही रेलवे की तरफ से भी जल्दी होनी चाहिए ताकि माल जल्दी से जल्दी खाली हो सके। अगर इन सारी चीजों की आप व्यवस्था करेंगे तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

[बीबी सीकार लाईव रेखा]

इसके अलावा एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। हमने अपने यहाँ देखा है फटिलाइजर के डिब्बों में पाडे (बीसे) भेज दिए जिससे 60 पाडे मर गए। यह बंगाल में कटने के लिए जाते हैं यह भी जिम्मेदारी होनी चाहिए कि जानवरों के लिए जो डिब्बे दे रहे हैं उनमें फटिलाइजर तो नहीं पड़ा हुआ है। हमारे यहाँ कापरिन स्टेशन से 14 मील दूर कोटा तक आते आते सभी पाडे मर गए और फिर मालिकों से कहते हैं कि तुम देख कर भरते नहीं। तो मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ और यह चाहता हूँ कि आप इस तरह की व्यवस्था करें कि माल ठीक समय से मिले और वह खराब न हो।

बी मूलबन्ध भाग (पाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, रेलवे के द्वारा माल ढोने का जो काम हो रहा है उसमें सन् 1964 से लेकर आज तक इन 10 सालों में घाटा हो रहा है। व्यापारी ज्यादातर अपना माल ट्रक से उठाते हैं। आज रेलवे बोर्ड और रेलवे प्रशासन को सोचना चाहिए कि क्या वजह है कि आज व्यापारी ज्यादातर ट्रक से ही माल उठाना चाहते हैं, रेल से वह अपना माल उठाना नहीं चाहते। मेहरबानी करके आप इस बात को सोचें कि आज ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है। रेलवे हर साल कम से कम 15 करोड़ रुपया कम्प्लेसेशन का देती है — इसका कारण क्या है। आप देखें कि रेल से जो माल ढोते हैं उसकी टाइम लिमिट क्या है, निश्चित समय पर ठीक जगह पहुँच जायेगा इसकी आप क्या गारन्टी देते हैं? अगर व्यापारी ट्रक से अपना माल चढ़ाते हैं तो उनका माल ठीक समय से पहुँच जाता है लेकिन दूसरी तरफ रेलवे से बढ़ाया हुआ माल ठीक जगह और ठीक समय पहुँच जायेगा, इसकी गारन्टी कौन देगा?

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो आपकी इन्वायस होती है उसमें लिखा रहता है “सिड टु कस्टोमर” यानी आप नहीं कहते कि हमें धुआँप देना है

जिसकी आप जिम्मेदारी लेते हैं। मतलब यह है कि आप नहीं जानते कि उसके अन्दर क्या है। इसलिए आप देखें कि मारी स्क्रीन कहां फेल होती है।

“Loading and unloading will be done by the owner himself.”

जब आपकी इन्वायस पर यह लिखा रहता है तो आप लीडिंग करें या अनलोडिंग करें, आपके लिबर के द्वारा वह काम होना चाहिए। आप इस तरह का कानून बनाते हैं लेकिन जब हम लोग अपना माल रेल से ढोना चाहते हैं तो उसकी कोई सेपटी नहीं होती और ठीक समय पर माल पहुँचना नहीं। इन कानून को बनाने की जरूरत है क्या पड़ी, यह काम तो रूस से भी हो सकता था। इसके लिए तो आपके फ्राम प्राविजन था, कानून बनाने की जरूरत ही नहीं थी। आमानी से यह काम हो सकता था। 82(जे) इन प्रकार से है।

“The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the objects of Section 82-J and 82-H.”

54 में भी आपको गावर्स है :

“Subject to the control of the Railway administration which may impose conditions not inconsistent with this Act and any general rules framed therein with respect to the receiving, forwarding and delivering of any animal or goods.”

मैं अभी तक नहीं समझ पाया, मान लीजिए बड़ी जोरों की बरसात आ रही है, आपने सात दिन की नॉटिस दे दी लेकिन बरसात इसनी आ रही है कि सात दिन में माल उठाने वाला माल उठा नहीं सकता है तो आपके रूस रिजर्व्स होंगे या नहीं? या फिर आपकी इन्वायस किसी प्राइमी के पास दस दिन के बाद पहुँचती है तब वह क्या करेंगे? तो इसके लिए आप रूस बना सकते हैं, कानून बनाना एक अलग चीज है। रूस कैसे काले से होंगे इसका काम करना पड़ेगा। लेकिन अभी हमें कम्प्लेसेशन के लिए देना है

कर्मचारी बराबर देते हैं, औरिया बराबर होती है। आपने कर दिया कि सात दिन में भाग उठ जायेगा। रेल के कर्मचारी खुद प्रसन्न होते हैं नहीं तो कानून तोड़ने का सवाल ही क्या है। 50 (इ) में लिखा है

"The factors to which Central Government shall have regard under clause (e) of the first provision of Section 2, the form and manner in which the application may be submitted."

अब आपके सौनियम और बनेंगे। अच्छा राज्य प्रशान्त इद है जो कम से कम कानून बनाता है। या तो फिर जैसा मिश्रा जी ने कहा पुराने कानून को आपके होते हुए ही बदल दिया जाये। अब तो मोहम्मद शफी कुरेसी और इटानिह माहब आप के साथ हैं—इन को कहे कि पुराने कानून और रेलवे बोर्ड को गंगा जो भेजे और नया कानून बना कर यहा लायें। इस कानून का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन तो आप पहले ही कर सकते थे, इसी लिए मैं ने यह प्रार्थना की है।

श्री मुहम्मद इस्महिल : (बैरकपुर)

आप जो बिल लाये हैं कि यात दित तक अगर कोई माल न ले जाय तो उस का माल नीलाम कर दिया जाय, इसकी कोई मुकालिफत करने की जरूरत नहीं है, हम डम का सम्बर्धन करते हैं। लेकिन एक बात को तरफ में मवो श्री का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ, अभी हमारे दूसरे संशोधनों में भी उसको के बारे में चिक्र किया है रेलवे का जो एक्ट है, वह बहुत पुराना है, ब्रिटिश जमाने का है। भक्तेजी को यहा से गये हुए तकरीबन तीस साल होने को आ रहे हैं, लेकिन उसकी बनाया हुआ कानून अभी तक चालू है, उस में हल्लात के मुअविफ कोई सबधीली नहीं है यह है।

एक दूसरी चीज में, वह अर्ज कलवा चाहते हैं कि आगमनरे रेलवे में पिलफरेज बहुत होता है, और सतोही बाजी है। 15 से 20 पिलफरेज के कर्मचारी हर सतन होता

है। हमारे पास पुलिस फोर्स है, फिर भी यह काम नहीं होता है—इस का कोई हल आज तक नहीं निकला है। बहुत सी जगहों पर तो पिलफरेज खोपन तौर से होता है और रेलवे कुछ नहीं कर सकती। हमारे डमडम के इलाके में नवापाडा जगह है, जहा यह काम खुले तौर से होता है मुझसे पहले जो एम०पी० थे उन्होंने और बाव में मैंने कई दफा रेल मन्त्रालय को लिख कर भेजा, वहा के लोगो ने दस्तखत कर के अपनी अर्जी भेजी कि वहा पर हस्प्ट स्टेशन बना दिया जाय, कालोनी है, इस से जो पिलफरेज होता है, वह खेगा और लोगो को आसानी होगी—लेकिन कोई सुनवाई नहीं हुई। इस तरफ आपको तबज्जह देनी चाहिए।

आप सात दिनों में माल को नीलाम करने जा रहे हैं—यह ठीक है, लेकिन एक बात ध्यान को ख्याल में रखनी होगी—जो स्माल इण्डस्ट्रीज के लोग हैं, मोडियम इण्डस्ट्रीज के लोग हैं—उन की दिक्कतों को भी अपने सामने रखना होगा। कई बार ऐसा होता है कि बेगन जुध जातो है, लेकिन बिस्ती नहीं पहुचती—ऐसी सुरत में अगर मास सात दिन में नीलाम कर दिया जायेगा तो इन छोटे लोगो को बहुत दिक्कत होगी। इस के बारे में आप को सोचना चाहिए। आप को ऐसी हिदायत देनी चाहिए कि इस किस्म की दिक्कतों के बारे में देख लिया जाय। बाज दफा ऐसा भी होता है कि बेगन अपनी जगह पर न पहुच कर डाइवर्ट हो जाती है, अपनी जगह पर बहुत अर्से तक नहीं पहुचती और व्यावारी बिस्ती लिए हुए आकर लगाते रहते हैं। इस के बारे में भी आप को सोचना होगा।

पेंसेणर अमेनिटीज के बारे में, जैसा बूझरे मेम्बर साहबाब भी बोले हैं, इस में शक नहीं कि पब्लिक जी के धाने के बाव कुछ फर्क जरूर पडा है, मैं भी इनका एतराफ करता हूँ, लेकिन अतक भी साखिबो ने पानी नहीं मिलता बरतीजही होती है, लोग अर्से से बीडे हुए सफर

[श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल]

करते हैं, कोई किसी के तिर पर तिर रखता है, कोई देखने वाला नहीं है . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस बिल में अनेनिटीज की बात नहीं है, इस को हम में मत लाइये, उस के लिए दूसरे मोके आयेंगे ।

श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल : एक बात मुझ यह कहना है कि आप इस को 14 जगहों पर कर रहे हैं—ऐसा क्यों ? इस को ज्यादा जगहों पर करना चाहिए । मैं छोटी इण्डस्ट्री और मीडियम इण्डस्ट्री वालों की बात फिर कह रहा हूँ, ऐसा न हो कि सब पर एक-मा स्टीम रोलर चला दिया जाय, कभी कभी उन का बैक से रुपया नहीं मिलता है, रुपये के लिए अर्जी देते हैं, मन्जूर होने में देर लग जाती है, जब मन्जूर होता है तब बिल्टी छुड़वाकर लाते हैं—ऐसे लोगों का आप को ख्याल रखना चाहिए ।

शिपिंग के बारे में भी मुझे अर्ज करना है—पोर्ट्स पर करोड़ों रुपये का माल गोदामों में जमा रहत है, बैगन्स नहीं मिलती है—इस तरफ भी आप को ध्यान देना चाहिए ।

श्री एस० एम्० बनर्जी : (कानपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले तो मैं श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी साहब को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ—जिन्होंने इस चीज को पकड़ा और इस के बारे में कार्यवाही करने का एलान किया, अखबारों में सुखियां आई कि इस के बारे में कानून लाया जायेगा, जिस से कि सात दिन से ज्यादा वह समान वहां न रहे । उस के बाद बघाई के पात्र हमारे पंडित जी हैं—क्योंकि उनके भाने के बाद रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री में एक जान आ गई है । हमारे कुछ मेम्बरों ने कहा कि सात दिन बहुत कम हैं कभी ऐसी दिक्कत पेश हो जाय कि उठाने के साधन न हों, तब क्या होगा ? किसी ने कहा कि बारिश हो जाये तो क्या होगा ? मैं कहता हूँ कि कोई दिक्कत नहीं आयेगी । आज तक का रिकार्ड यह रहा है कि लोग जानबूझ कर वहां माल रखते थे,

डेपरेज देना कुबूल करते थे, लेकिन अनलोड करना कुबूल नहीं करते थे, वे दामों के बढ़ने का इन्तजार करते रहते थे । ऐसी चीज जो पेरिशबिल नहीं होती, जैसे गेहूँ, चावल बैगरह—ये एन्टीसोशल एलीमेन्ट्स, माल भाने पर बाजार के भाव देखते थे, बाजार में माल की शार्टेज पैदा करते थे और भावों के ऊंचा होने पर माल छुड़ा कर लाते थे । बरना माल अनलोड करने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं है, मैंने खुद देखा है, कानपुर में केले की गाड़ी एक घंटे में अनलोड हो जाती है । इसलिये मेरा कहना है कि जो कानून बनाया जाय उस का सही तरीके से इम्प्लीमेंटेशन होना चाहिये । उस में भ्रष्टाचार न फैलने पाये, कुछ तो होता ही है, लेकिन इतना नहीं कि कानून का असल मकसद ही खत्म हो जाये ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं दोबारा दोनों मिनिस्ट्रियों को धन्यवाद देते हुए इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ ।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : : मान्यवर, यह विधेयक जो यहां पर लाया गया है, वह इस सदन और दूसरे सदन की मांग पर लाया गया है । माननीय सदस्यों को स्मरण होगा, इस विषय पर इस सदन में कई बार चर्चा हुई है कि जो माल आता है, अनलोड नहीं किया जाता है, बैगन्स को फसाये रखा जाता है, माल गोदामों में कंजेशन हो जाता है, सामान भर जाता है, कोई ऐसा इंतजाम रेलवे क्यों नहीं करती जिस से यह माल जल्दी से उतारा जाय और बैगन्स खाली हों और माल गोदाम भी खाली हो । मैं कृतज्ञ हूँ माननीय बनर्जी का कि उन्होंने इस का स्मरण कराया कि हमारे साथी कुरेशी जी ने एक सवाल का जबाब देते हुए कहा था कि हम इस बात की कोशिश करेंगे कि 7 दिन के अन्दर यह माल हट जाय । इसी सदन में उन्होंने यह आश्वासन दिया था सम्भवतः और उसी आश्वासन की बुनियाद पर इस

बिल को लीजिए। दूधरजेंसी के वक्त में खास तौर से इस की जरूरत महसूस हुई। जैसा आप जानते हैं रेलवे बजट अभी आयेगा महीने, सवा महीने के भीतर और अलग से उस पर बहस भी होगी और फिर बहुत सी बात माननीय सदस्य मुझावों के रूप में करेंगे और जिन्हें हम नोट करेंगे तथा कार्यान्वित करने की कोशिश भी करेंगे, और उन से हमारा फायदा भी होगा।

यह बिल तो ऐसा है कि इस का बड़ा छोटा सा दायरा है और वह यह कि जो माल लोड किया गया और बैगन में भरा हुआ है अनलोड नहीं किया जा रहा है, या माल उतार कर गोदाम में रख दिया गया और वहां से उसे नहीं हटा रहे हैं, तो यह जो हमारे पास बैगन्स की और जगह की कमी हो जाती है, बहुत सा माल रुक जाने की वजह से कंजेशन पैदा हो जाता है, हम को किस तरह से रोका जाय। क्यों कि बहुत से व्यापारी हमारे बैगन्स को अपने गोदाम की तरह से इस्तेमाल करते हैं और बैगन का फायदा उठाते हैं और हमारे मालगोदाम का भी। वही सामान पड़ा रहता है और कभी कभी तो ऐसा भी हुआ है कि उन्होने ने डैमरेज दे दिया और बाहर माल उतारने के बाद वारफेज आदि भी दे दिये, फिर भी माल उठाया नहीं इसलिये कि बाजार में उन की कीमत बढ गई है और जितना उन्होंने दंड दिया है उस से ज्यादा उन्होंने ने इस तरीके से फायदा उठाया है। तो इस बात को रोकने के लिये यह बिल है और सशोधन ले आये है 1890 के इंडियन रेलवेज ऐक्ट में माननीय मिश्रा जी, डागा जी और इस्माइल साहब भी कह रहे हैं कि हम इस ऐक्ट को बदले। इस को बदलने की कोशिश हो रही है। हमारे रेलवे विभाग में कुछ कार्यवाही इस पर की जा रही है। यह 100 वर्ष पुराना कानून है, इस को किस तरह आज की जरूरतों के मुताबिक बदला जाय, किस तरह की तबदीली की जाय जिस से हमारा काम सुचारु रूप से चले, यह काम

हम कर रहे हैं। लेकिन बहुत बड़ा ऐक्ट है उसमें कुछ देर लगेगी। इसलिए हम ने इस जरूरी बात के लिए इस विधेयक को अभी यहां पेश किया है।

श्री एस० एम्० बक्शी : इस की सेन्टेनरी मना कर तब बदला जाय।

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : इस बिल को यदि देखें तो यही है कि 1890 के ऐक्ट का जो सैक्शन 56 (ए) है उस के बाद (बी) (सी) (डी) और (ई) चार धारायें इस में जोड़ दी गई हैं, कोई खास तबदीली नहीं की गई है, केवल यह कहा गया है कि हमारे शौड में माल निकालने के लिए क्या फोरमेलटीज और प्रोसीजर्स होंगे। तो इस का मभी स्वागत कर रहे हैं।

रेलवे विभाग जिस तरह से काम कर रहा है, उस में जो खामियां हैं उन की तरफ सर्वश्री डागा और इस्माइल साहब ने ध्यान दिलाया है। माननीय पांडे जी ने भी कहा कि रेलवे को बहुत ज्यादा रकम कलैम्स की शकस में देनी पड़ती है, उन को रोकने की कोशिश कीजिए। तो यह जो कमियां हैं रेलवे विभाग की, मैं समझता हूं कि जो शिकायतें थी माननीय सदस्यों की वह भुनासिब हैं और उन की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। मैं मानता हूं कि बहुत ज्यादा कमियां हैं। यह बात सही है कि हम ने माल भेज दिया और माल पहुंच गया, इसकी हमें सूचना मिलनी चाहिए। कभी कभी ऐसा होता है कि माल पहले पहुंच जाता है और आर० आर० बाद में पहुंचती है तो कैसे सूचना मिले कसाइनी को। और हम ने 7 दिन के बाद माल नीलाम कर दिया। तो खामख्याह कसाइनी को घाटा होगा। यह बातें हम देखेंगे।

शास्त्री जी कह रहे थे कि सभी स्टेशनो को नोटिफाई कर दो। 14 जगह हम ने इसलिए नोटिफाई की हैं कि वहां बहुत ज्यादा टेन्डेंसी बैगन और गोदामों को फंसाये रखने

[श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी]

की है उन्हीं स्टेशनों-पर हम ने इस को लगाया है। और इस से हमारा फायदा हुआ है। हावड़ा स्टेशन पर 8 वेगन्स कच्चे माल के पड़े हुए थे, कोई पूछने वाला नहीं था। उन को हम ने अक्विशन किया, और खाली इस कानून के लगा देने से ही हमारे वेगन्स का टर्न ओवर बहुत तेजी से बढ़ा है। दिसम्बर, में 25,000 वेगन्स की लोडिंग हुई है जो आज टाइम रेकार्ड है रेलवे के इतिहास में। तो वेगन्स खाली हुए हैं, उनका टर्न ओवर बढ़ा है, खाली इस कानून के बना देने की वजह से वेगन्स खाली हो रहे हैं और जो वेगन्स की मांग बढ़ रही है उसे भी हम पूरा कर रहे हैं। तो नोटिफाई करते हैं उन जगहों पर जहां देखते हैं कि यहां माल को रखने की, अनलोडिंग न करने की और गोदामों को फंसाए रखने की लोगों की प्रवृत्ति है, और उस को दूर करें। जहां हम ने नोटिफाई नहीं किया है वहां भी इस का अच्छा असर हुआ है। मैं समझता हूं कि इस से हमारा लाभ हुआ है, और जो तिकड़म की जानी रही है, और षडयंत्र रचा जाता रहा है उस को रोकने में इस से सहायता मिली है।

जहां तक विभाग की कमजोरियों की बात है और जो माननीय सदस्यों ने सुझाव दिये हैं उन पर हम विशेष रूप से ध्यान देंगे।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक को विचारार्थ पेश करता हूं।

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration,"

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: We now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

There are Amendments No. 1 and 2 in the name of Shri Ram Avtar Shastri to clause 2. Is he moving the amendments?

SHRI RAM AVTAR SHASTRI: I am not moving the amendments.

MR. SPEAKER: So, I put all the clauses, Enacting Formula and together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2, 3 and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3, and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: It is 1 O'Clock now. We will take up the next item after lunch. The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Bill. Shri Raghu-natha Reddy.

BONDED LABOUR SYSTEM (ABOLITION) BILL

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR
(SRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):**
This House is aware that the Rajya Sabha have already passed the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Bill, 1976.

The system of bonded labour is the most anomalous remnant of feudalism still vitiating our society. It is a moral duty of the nation to abolish the system. Freedom can never endure with enclaves of bondage; a civilization with an army of exiles never lasts.

By emphasising in the 20-point programme the necessity of the immediate abolition of bonded labour, the Prime Minister voiced the aspirations of the mute and toiling minority of our compatriots that had been condemned to live as exiles from our civilization.

The mechanics of the system is well-known. A poor peasant or an agricultural worker takes a small loan; his dues accumulate very fast under exorbitantly high rates of interest; soon he finds it impossible to extinguish his debts; he disposes of his property but still continues to be in the red; he then begins to work for the creditor at absurdly low wages and hopes to repay the debt by the fruits of his labour; but the cruel logic of usury defeats him. His children and grand-children also begin to work for nominal wages to liquidate the debt. Generations after generations become virtual slaves to the creditor. The entire future of the family becomes mortgaged to a small loan taken in the remote past; the debt becomes the destiny.

That is how this system based on usury and feudal exploitation perpetuates unequal exchange for ages. The bonded labour has no access to any commodity or capital market; he ceases to be a free economic agent; he is reduced to an appendage of feudal

property. The debt thus dehumanize him; he lives like a sub-man; he lives like a thing. The system, therefore, not only dispossesses the labourer but also divests him of his human essence. The Prime Minister has rightly said that it is a barbarous system.

No civilisation can endure half-free, half-bonded. Freedom that co-exists with servitude is illusory. So, the Prime Minister decided that the system must end.

This House is aware that feudal relations of production, coupled with the mercantilism fostered by colonialism, gave rise to this mode of exploitation in different parts of the country. The colonisers were interested in impeding the development of indigenous market-forces in the country. They, therefore, aided and abetted the perpetuation of pro-feudal economic structures in this country of which the system of bonded labour is one of the glaring examples.

I may take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the House some examples of the system existing in different parts of the country. The practice of bonded labour was found to be prevalent in the scheduled areas of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari and East Godavari in 1965-66. The report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 1971-72 and 1972-73, says:

"It is suggested that a detailed study on the subject may be carried out by the State Tribal Research Institute as it is difficult to believe that the economic condition of bonded labourers has improved to such an extent that during a period of eight years, this practice has completely disappeared."

The system is prevalent in some areas of Bihar. The report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes gives the names of the villages in which this system is

[Shri Raghunatha Reddy]

prevalent in the State of Bihar. The report also indicates the socio-economic factors that help the perpetuation of this mode of exploitation. The system of labour called *Hali* that existed in Gujarat is a type of bonded labour. According to the latest communication received from the Gujarat Government, the practice of bonded labour is not prevalent in the State at present. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, however, states that more schemes are necessary for the economic rehabilitation of *Helpatis*. In Karnataka, the *jeetha* system that existed in Dharwar District comes under the purview of the system of bonded labour. In Kerala, the practice existed in the North Wynad and South Wynad and in Malapuram District. The State Government have abolished the system by promulgating a Bill. But we have a feeling that the economic rehabilitation of the bonded labourers may take more time. The report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also indicated that, in Madhya Pradesh, the system existed in the districts of Ratlam, Morena, Jabua and Mandur. The *Gothis* system in Orissa amounts to bonded labour. It is reported that, in some backward areas of Rajasthan, particularly in the Bhimbarpur District, the *Sagri* system was prevalent. In Tamil Nadu, the State Government stated that the system of bonded labour was not prevalent. But the Charity Ryots of Gudalur Taluk employ the hill tribals belonging to Paniyas and Kattunyakans as labourers to work in their paddy fields. Those who are employed for paddy cultivation are fed and clothed by them in addition to wages given in kind. The tribals who are employed for cultivation are at liberty to go anywhere else if they are not pleased with their masters. Whether really the persons who have made some contract can go and work with other landlords so easily is doubtful, but without having any detailed survey, nothing can be concluded. Some surveys have shown

that the system exists in some areas of Uttar Pradesh also.

Sir, it is not necessary to give more details to the House. This House has already stood for the dignity of human labour and for economic and moral freedom. I am confident that hon. Members will agree with me if I say that the abolition of bonded labour is a political and moral duty that we cannot palter with.

The President promulgated an Ordinance on October 24, 1975, abolishing the system. It has been laid down in the Ordinance that all debts incurred by bonded labourers shall be deemed to have been liquidated. Any act that can, in any way, perpetuate this system or stand in the way of the abolition of this system has been made a punishable offence under the Ordinance. The Ordinance also provides that there shall be vigilance committees at the District and subdivisional levels consisting of officials dealing with developmental projects and non-officials concerned with rural development. The vigilance committees will advise the Government machinery and will evolve suitable methods of canalising credit and other production—inputs to the bonded labourer. Officers of the State Governments can be vested, under the Ordinance, with adequate powers in respect of inquiry, cognizance, prosecution and trial. State Governments have already been told that the eradication of bonded labour cannot consist in legislation only; it is a complex administrative problem the solution of which will require the concerted efforts of the developmental machinery of the Government, nationalised banks, rural banks and social workers working in the agrarian sector. State Governments have been requested to utilise the Plan schemes for the rehabilitation of freed bonded labourers. We cannot be tardy in bringing back to the mainstream of national life these creatures that once were men and that is not a very easy job. We have to transform not only the economic situ-

ation of the freed bonded labourer but also his ethos. Years of servility generates not only professional inefficiency but also psychological inertia. The bonded labour got used only to poverty but also to domination. Our task is to extricate him from his economic squalor and moral pallor—to restore him from thralldom to freedom.

Appropriate agencies are making arrangements for the collection of statistics on the earnings of freed bonded labourers. The State Governments have been asked to impart necessary vocational training to these labourers to enable them to pursue independent professions. If land is not available, these labourers may be supplied with the inputs for Khadi industries like bee-keeping, handicraft, weaving or sericulture.

A feat of oratory is not necessary to convince the Hon. Members that this Bill must be enacted immediately. The country is experiencing a radical transformation under the 20-Point Programme announced by our beloved Prime Minister. This programme is not only a strategy for progress but also a chapter of emancipation. The abolition of out-moded and iniquitous economic structures like the system of bonded labour is a *sine qua non* for the success of 20-Point Programme. Exploitation is immoral and immorality breeds decay. We shall increase the durability of our civilization by rehabilitating bonded labourers—the poor victims of pre-history that never lived like men.

With these words, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the abolition of bonded labour system with a view to preventing the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker sections of the people and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion made:

2226 LS-6

"That the Bill to provide for the abolition of bonded labour system with a view to preventing the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker sections of the people and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Biren Dutta.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA (Tripura West): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is really surprising that the system of bonded labour has been allowed to perpetuate in this country though it was prohibited under the Constitution adopted as early as 1950. If the Government would have taken action according to the provisions of the Constitution against the money-lenders who exploited the rural labourers in a most inhumane manner there would have been no need for such a Bill to be discussed here.

Then hon. Minister has stated that the abolition of bonded labour has been included as one of the items of the 20-Point Programme enunciated by the Prime Minister, but the Government has not the modesty to explain as to what prevented them so far to take action against the money-lenders and landlords. The power was given to the Government under the Constitution, but no action was taken by them. Now it has been made a matter of propaganda. While we are discussing this Bill here, the landlords and money-lenders are at large and they are exploiting the labourers. Since the policy of this government is to encourage in the village the landlords and the rich people, they cannot abolish the bonded labour system. It will continue even if this Bill is adopted. The Scheduled Caste Commissioner has already submitted 20 reports to government wherein it is clearly stated that this system very much persists. What has prevented this government from taking action against those persons whose names were included in

[Shri Biren Dutta]

the report of the Commissioner? The Labour Minister himself presided over a Seminar organised by the National Labour Institute. In that report also I find the existence of this evil system in U.P., Rajasthan, Bihar and other States....

AN HON. MEMBER: Andhra Pradesh also.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA: We have no information whether any action has been taken against the persons whose names, addresses, etc. have been given in the report itself. Even after the promulgation of the Ordinance and even when we are discussing this Bill, it is really surprising that in some areas just after the declaration of the ordinance, when some peasants organization tried to organize against the money-lenders, at once the government came with a heavy hand and many have been put into the prison as MISA detenus. Is it the way to abolish the bonded labour system?

The bonded labour system is very old in India which is there over centuries. It is inherent in the village frame-work itself and unless you change it, you cannot abolish the bonded labour system. If you continue your support to the landlords and the rich people, this system will persist. The first and foremost question is: whether this Government really intends to abolish this system. Unemployment in the village areas is so high; about 4 crores of unemployed are reported in the Press and it is growing more and more and where will these unemployed go if you abolish this bonded labour system? They will go to the same money-lender and the usurer because that way they can have at least one full meal a day, if not two. The number of unemployed is quite large in the rural areas and this will be biggest hindrance to implement any measure on abolition of the bonded labour system. By this Act, you cannot even touch the fringe of the problem. So long

as you do not give land to the landless and cheap credit, they are bound to go to the usurers. The Minister himself has said that now the Government will try. If land is available, he will not get the land. Then where will they go? How will they live? So, it is meaningless to pass the Bill without guaranteeing them land and assistance. The most difficult problem is that the members of the Congress party are the landlords and or they form the vote catching machinery of the Congress Party. That is why this thing is still persisting. Even if you pass this Bill this practice will continue.

A serious drawback of the present situation is that the bonded labourers are un-organised and, therefore, they cannot assert their right. If any attempt on the part of the agricultural workers organisations is made to help the bonded labourers to free themselves at once, it is seen that the goondas, landlords, usurers and money lenders throw the poor villagers who help the labourers in difficulty.

May I know from the honourable Minister whether there is any written document?

You have said, generation after generation, this system has been persisting. Now, the Central Government has authorised the State Governments to implement this law. It is a very funny thing. The Central Government is taking the credit of passing a law for abolishing the bonded labour system in the Bill there is no Financial Memorandum. The Central Government will not take any responsibility to implement this Act. That is why, I conclude by saying that this Bill is more for the purpose of serving as a favourable propaganda for the ruling party than for the liberation of the bonded labour.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI
(Bhubaneswar): Honourable Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the most welcome

measure. The hon. Minister for Labour has put before us that this system has been continuing for ages together in a feudal society like ours. In the twenty point programme, one of the points that has been included is about the transformation of a society of a feudal order to a society free from feudal exploitation, all kinds of exploitations, through democratic and peaceful means. I must say that this is one of the most remarkable achievements for which we are striving for. The Prime Minister has described the bonded labour system as the most barbarous system prevailing in this country. We have taken a right step and this is in the right direction.

This is a kind of remnant of medieval feudalism. The more we try to organise the rural masses, the more we bring them into a kind of mass action for achieving this objective. Then, we shall succeed.

In this connection I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Indian National Congress was seized of this matter for a long period. For the last two years i.e. from 1974, in order to organise the rural poor the landless, the artisans and the small farmers, the Indian National Congress, the Indian National Trade Union Congress, jointly thought of organising the rural masses into the Indian National Rural Workers Federation. For the last one year this Indian National workers Federation with the blessing of the Indian National Congress and the INTUC have gone in a big way to organise the rural masses so that by whatever legislation we are bringing to ameliorate the condition of the rural people they can organise themselves and get the benefit out of it. Whatever measures were given to industrial workers by way of various legislations during the last 26 years by this Government, because the industrial labour could organise themselves, they could wrest rights from the employer and also from the Government and the

employer and Government had to accept many of their demands. Since independence we must have passed hundreds of land reform measures but the rural people could not derive much benefit from them because they were not organised. As somebody has suggested this lacuna was there and the workers were not benefited. I hope that the hon. Minister will take these things into account. Mere abolition of bonded labour by legislation is not going to really free all those people who are still in bondage. We had abolished bonded labour system which was called Gothi as early as in 1956 which was there in Koraput district in Orissa. Mere abolition by legislation alone is not going to solve this problem.

I want to offer a few suggestions to the hon. Minister. We know that there are many cases of these labourers who have taken loans from sahuikars and money lenders, they have mortgaged their lands, they are working for them, but they are not included as bonded labour. I am citing only one instance. In the year 1943 one tribal in Nava-garh sub division of Puri district in Orissa took Rs. 550 by way of loan from one money-lender and he had 2 1/2 acres of land. It is surprising to note that this tribal gave his own labour, his own bullock, his own plough, and yet cultivating this 2 1/2 acres of land which he mortgaged to the money lender, and the crop was being taken away by the money lender. This has been calculated that by way of giving the crops to the money-lender, he would have repaid more than Rs. 2500 to the moneylender and still the debt continues. But, Sir, at last he has been saved from this year's crop. I would ask the Minister as to how to include these kinds of people because he is sufferer in both ways. In a sense he is a bonded labourer and in the other sense he is indebted to the moneylender and he is a category belonging to both sides. Therefore I want to know as to how you are going to solve this problem.

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

Unless you try to coordinate the activities of all the commercial banks and rural banks, all the cooperative and the credit institutions, you will not be able to supply them the necessary inputs, credit etc. Even last month, one fellow who was freed from this indebtedness from moneylender had again gone to another moneylender. In Orissa poor and small farmers, artisans need more than 100 crores of credit every year. This has to be met through credit institutions. He must get some loan for his crops. Therefore, the Government should immediately go in a big way to identify the areas where they are going to free these people and should immediately set up credit institutions so that they get the loans from them immediately.

With regard to Vigilance Committee, I would like to suggest that this is not going to work. Therefore, if you are going to set up vigilance committees, the Minister of Labour of the Central Government or any representative of the Central Government should be involved in all these implementation Committees which would be set up for implementing this. Unless the Central Government gets itself involved directly, whatever legislation we may pass here, we will simply pass the back to the State Governments. I do not think the State Governments will be able to implement these programmes alone seriously. So, I hope that you will consider this suggestion of mine. Over and above the Member of Parliament or M.L.A. of that area and the elected Panchayat Samiti Chairmen Members should also find a place in the Committee and committed non-officials should chair these Committees.

*SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU (Nagapattinam): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Communist Party of India to which I have the honour to

belong and on my personal behalf as the President of the All India Agricultural Workers' Union, I wholeheartedly extend my welcome to the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Bill, 1976. In the past on numerous occasions movements were launched by the All India Agricultural Workers' Union for the abolition of this barbarous and heinous system of bonded labour in our country. This legislation abolishing the bonded labour system should have been brought many years before. It has come belatedly yet it is such a welcome measure that everyone in this house should heartily welcome it. As one personally engaged actively for many years in the abolition of bonded labour and other kinds of feudal exploitation in the countryside, I unreservedly welcome this Bill.

In his introductory speech, the hon. Minister of Labour stated that the bonded labourers were virtually slaves for generations. The agricultural labourer who took a petty loan from a landlord could not clear the loan for years and years. He was made to toil and sweat for extremely low wages for decades. His entire family slogged on with him. Yet that petty loan could not be cleared. They were bonded labour for generations. They could not go to any other place for their livelihood. They were completely dehumanised. In this situation, they could not have been able to enjoy any fundamental rights guaranteed to them in our Constitution. They had neither any fundamental rights nor any human rights. The House will be surprised to know that, in the Tanjore District of Tamil Nadu from where I come, the bonded labourers used to be punished by the landlord, they were whipped and they were compelled to sip cow-dung mixture. The bonded labourers were not only slaves but also treated worse than animals.

If a thorough survey is made, it will be revealed that the bonded labour

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

system, is still prevalent in all the States in one form or the other. This Bill seeks to emancipate the slaves of centuries and to make them breathe the pure air of freedom. Naturally all of us who have devoted their lives for the noble cause of freeing the bonded agricultural labourers for generations welcome this legislative measure heartily.

Sir, though this is a good legislative measure, yet I find that there are certain deficiencies which will impede the effective implementation of the salutary provisions of the Bill. I will enumerate a few of such deficiencies. You know, Sir, that most of the 22 State Governments and 9 Union Territories have declared that there is no bonded labour system in their regions. I feel that this is an indirect way of not only denying the existence of bonded labour system but also refusing to implement one important aspect of the 20-point economic programme acumbrated by the Prime Minister. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has declared that there is no bonded labour system in Tamil Nadu. But, Sir, in Tamil Nadu in Bihar and in many other areas of the country, this hated system of slavery is still prevalent. The hon. Minister of Labour in his introductory speech referred to the existence of bonded labour system in the Nilgiris District. It looked as though that this system existing only in the Nilgiris District. The fact is that this system is widely prevalent in other areas also. For example, there is one form of forced labour system known as Subaship in Tamil Nadu. Similar other systems of forced labour are prevalent in other parts of the country. Besides the 31 forms of forced labour enumerated in the Bill, there are many more other systems of forced labour prevalent throughout the length and breadth of the country. In 1969 the Mayasaperamal Committee had given a detailed list of this kind of forced labour systems prevalent in the country. The Commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been persistently and continuously

mentioning in his annual Reports for the past 21 years about different forms of forced labour prevalent in the country. I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Labour that all such forms of forced labour prevalent in different parts of the country should be incorporated in this Bill. If that is not done, I am afraid that an anomalous situation will arise in future if any dispute is taken to a court of law. The court will the well within its right to reject certain complaints of bonded labour on the ground that the form of forced labour mentioned in the complaint does not find a place in the law. Naturally the laudable objective and the noble purpose of the Bill will be defeated. In fact the legislative effort of abolishing the system of centuries of bondage will be nullified. That is why I would like to reiterate that all the forms of forced labour prevalent in the country, besides the 31 forms enumerated in the Bill, should be incorporated in the Bill.

Sir, as has been pointed out earlier, mere legislation is not going to emancipate these slaves of generations. I regret to point out that there is no provision in this Bill for rehabilitating the freed bonded labourers. I have to say that there must be a statutory provision for rehabilitating these people freed from their perpetual bondage. The hon. Minister of Labour has stated in the other House that directives would be issued to the State Governments and that they would include programmes of rehabilitation in the State Plans and that financial provisions would be made for these programmes in the State Plans. I am afraid that this is not going to help these people in their rehabilitation. I have to emphasise the need for the Central Government taking a direct responsibility for their rehabilitation programmes. There must be specific provision for this purpose in the Bill.

In this connection, I have to refer to the fact that the suggestion for

[Shri M. Kathamuthu]

giving consumption loans to agricultural workers and the weaker sections of our society by the Regional Rural Banks was not accepted by the Government and it is really a matter of regret that such a specific provision also does not find a place in the Regional Rural Banks Bill. If this situation obtains at the Centre, we can well imagine how the State Governments are going to implement the rehabilitation programmes for the upliftment of these oppressed people. I request the hon. Minister of Labour to accept the amendment that I have proposed in this regard.

Sir, it is proposed in the Bill that Vigilance Committees would be set up at the District level and at the Sub-Divisional level. When the State Governments have already declared that there is no bonded labour system in their regions, I wonder how they are going to implement this Bill. Sir, you know how the Land Reforms Acts are now being implemented by the State Governments. I do not want that this Bill also should receive a similar fate in the hands of the State Governments. Sir, the system of bonded labour has inexorable links with the land-lords who have great influence with the State Governments and who will have the ultimate say in such matters. I am afraid that the Vigilance Committees at the District level and at the Sub-Divisional level will not be of much avail. A Vigilance Committee should be set up at the Central level. Then only the Central Government will have a direct say in the matter. Vigilance Committees should also be set up at the State level. Sir, I have proposed some amendments in this regard. I request the hon. Labour Minister to accept them so that the Bill will have wholesome effect in abolishing the bonded labour system. The laudable objectives of the Bill should not be allowed to be defeated by these deficiencies which I have mentioned. I appeal to

the hon. Minister of Labour to accept the amendments that I have proposed in this regard.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS (Mangladai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister for having brought this Bill. I should say this is a death warrant for the Indian kulaks who have been ruining the rural economy of India for the last so many years. They had put a break to the advancement of the whole Indian national economy and because of this we are finding today appalling poverty everywhere.

These kulaks have been the mainstay of right reactionary forces and the fascist forces particularly the communal forces like RSS and Anand Marga who have been exploiting people's religious prejudices. They are having their nest in the rural areas taking advantage of the ignorance of peasants and the slavery which we are now calling bonded labour. To end the system of slavery which survives in different forms, such as serfdom and debt-slavery, now are have taken up as bonded labour, we have now to see how deeply it is embedded in the feudal pattern of the agrarian economy in the country. Sir, this matter was taken up long ago. Forty years ago it was discussed exhaustively by Pandit Jawahar Lad Nehru. He said: "The agrarian economy has already collapsed and a new organisation of society is already inevitable." He said these words in the year 1933. So, it is not a propaganda stunt now. It was felt so many years ago that the feudal system must be changed and this must be changed in the direction of socialism. Even a non-political man like Professor Radhakamal Mukerjee had said in 1933 in a book named "Problems of India" about the agrarian economy as having collapsed and suggested that 'unless the Indian vil-

lage is converted from a collection of small isolated individual holdings into a single co-operative farm and agriculture is treated as a collective service, there is no possibility of improvement of Indian agriculture and salvation of Indian peasants

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Mr Das, five minutes of your time are over. In the next five minutes, come to the Bill

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS I am suggesting there is no possibility of the improvement of Indian peasants under the existing land system

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Please listen. I said five minutes of the ten minutes are over. So please come to the Bill in the next five minutes

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS I am just speaking on the object of the Bill which is to abolish the bonded labour system. But who are the bonded labourers? The landless agricultural labourers are mostly the bonded labourers. The census of agricultural labour in 1934 in UP had disclosed that they had an earning of 3 annas per day. According to the 25th round of National Sample Survey, they are now earning 68 P per day. This is the earning per day of agricultural labour. In West Bengal for 1972-73, some figure was given that they are earning 26 P per day.

There is an element of economic compulsion in this bonded labour system.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Bonded labour gets this payment?

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS They get into bonded labour because as Radhakamal Mukherjee has said, 'The landlord or rich cultivators contrive their servants to get into debt this obtaining a hold over them which extend to their posterity.' They are not paid anything afterwards. This system is rooted in the agrarian economy

based on private land ownership and unless we change the agrarian economy along socialist line, it cannot be eradicated.

There is provision in the Bill for rehabilitation of bonded labour. But how can they be rehabilitated in a feudal economy? This economy is throwing up landless every day. Every day the number of the landless is increasing. Their *per capita* income is falling. Therefore, this calls for a revolutionary change in the agrarian economy. That was the demand of the Indian National Congress when it passed the resolution in 1959 on co-operative farming. By leaving the bonded labourers to themselves individually to eke out a living, this bondage or poverty cannot be removed.

Another very important point to be discussed that is provided in the Bill is about the Vigilance Committee. The main thing is implementation. We have passed so many progressive pieces of legislation, but they have remained unimplemented. Therefore, after 28 years of independence, this emergency has come and in the wake of it also the twenty-point economic programme. Abolition of bonded labour is one of the item of this programme. It is not the bureaucracy that will be competent to implement or that will sincerely work for the implementation of this twenty-point programme. Even the President has in his Address expressed doubts about it and said that the bureaucracy alone cannot implement this twenty-point programme. Therefore there should be mass involvement of the agricultural workers and the general mass of the people the exploited people to fight against the vested interests. This is very important. Instead of Vigilance Committees, there should be Committees for Implementation with non-official mass organisations involved in that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Onkarlal Berwa.

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS: Thank you. I could not finish because of lack of time.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा (कोटा) : मैं इन विधेयक का हृदय से समर्थन करता हूँ। लेकिन अफसोस की बात यह है कि जिस समय हमें आदि मिली तबसे आदि तक यह कहां सो रहे थे जो आज इसके लिए आये हैं। अगर 25-26 साल पहले यह लागू होता तो आज चारों तरफ दरा मरा नजर आता। जैसा कि इन्टोने इसके अन्दर कहा है कि बंधित श्रमिकों की प्रथा का हटाना चाहते हैं और उनका कर्जा माफ करवाना चाहते हैं। शेडयूल्ड कास्ट्स और शेडयूल्ड ट्राइब्स की रिपोर्ट से इनकी आँखें खुली है कि हर जगह हर राज्य में अलग अलग तरह से उन मजदूरों को बंधक करके उनसे मजदूरी करवाई जाती है लेकिन यह प्रथा किस तरह से खत्म होगी? अभी कल ही सरकार ने ग्रामीण बैंकों का बिल पास किया है जिसमें केवल 14 जगह बैंक खोला गया है तो फिर वह हर गांव में किस तरह से पहुंचेंगे। इन रफार से तो हजारों साल लग जायेंगे तब जाकर श्रमिक आजाद हो सकेंगे। मान लीजिए आपने ऋण माफ करवा दिया, वह माफ हो जाएगा, मजदूरी से भी उसको हटवा देंगे, ठीक है लेकिन आपके पास उसको फिर से रोजगार देने का क्या साधन है? गांवों में 6 आदमी ऐसे होते हैं जिनके पास जमीन होती है लेकिन 94 आदमी ऐसे हैं जिनके पास जमीन नहीं है। वह लोग सिर्फ मजदूरी का काम करते हैं। उन खेतिहार मजदूरों के लिए आपने कौन सी योजना बनाई है कि फलों फेक्ट्री में वह चले जायें जहां उन्हें मजदूरी मिल जायगी? फिर गरीबों कैसे हटेंगे? आप ने बत की योजना बना दी कि ग्रामीण बक से कर्जा लेंगे। मान लीजिए आज मेरा बाप मर गया और तीन दिन की छुट्टी आ गई तो क्या वह मरा हुआ आदमी वहीं पड़ा रहेगा? उस के लिए कौन सा बैंक कर्जा देगा? या फिर

आदि शादी के लिए जरूरत है तो रुपया वहां से मिलेगा? यमन पेट तो कहेगी कि शादी मत करो। बच्चे पैदा हो रहे हैं तो उनके लिए पैसा कहां से मिलेगा? उनको उसी धनवान, उसी जमींदार के पास जाना पड़ेगा जहां उस को पैसा तत्काल मिलेगा। इसलिए मजदूर हो कर ही वह बन्धक मजदूरी करते हैं। अब आदि बनाएं उस की कैसे उस से छुड़ावें? आप ने सहकारी समितियां बनाई हैं। क्या उन के पास खजाना रखा हुआ है। हम ने सहकारी समितियों को भी देख लिया, दिवालिया हो रही है। वही से पैसा बटोरती है और वहीं खाली जाती है। खाद तो मिलती नहीं है, कर्जा कहां से मिलेगा? आप ने प्रावधान रखा है कि समितियां और उप समितियां गठित करें जिस में तीन सदस्य अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति के रहेंगे। अब सात के आगे उन तीन की कौन सुनेगा? बंधित श्रमिक शेडयूल्ड कास्ट के ही होते हैं। जनरल जाति के होते नहीं हैं। क्योंकि वह तो दुगान लगा कर भी दस रुपया कमा लेते हैं। यह मजदूर तो शेडयूल्ड कास्ट और शेडयूल्ड ट्राइब्स के ही हैं; जिन के आप ने केवल तीन मेम्बर रखे हैं। मेरा सुझाव है कि दोनों समितियों में उनके पांच पांच मेम्बर होने चाहिए और इस बात की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए कि उनको तत्काल पैसा मिल सके।

आपने इसमें लिखा है कि तीन साल की सजा और दो हजार रुपए तक जुर्माना हो सकता है लेकिन आज तक किसी को बन्धित भी किया है? आपने छुप्राछुन रोकने के लिए बिल पास किया हुआ है लेकिन उसके अन्तर्गत क्या आप तक किसी एक को भी कोई सजा दी गई है? उस कानून को पास हुए आज 8 साल हो गए हैं लेकिन एक को भी सजा नहीं मिली है। इसके अलावा आप सबूत कैसे देंगे। कोई इसका बही खाता तो रखता नहीं है। फिर आपने शेट लगाया है पांच रुपए लेकिन क्या किसी का पेट पांच में भरता है?

ऐसी हालत में यह दास प्रथा, बंधक मजदूरी प्रथा कैसे समाप्त होंगी ? खेतिहर मजदूर का रेट उनसे अलग 7-8 रूपए होता चाहिए । आपने बारामासी मजदूरों का नाम भी लिख दिया है, कल की रेलवे के बारामासी भी काम छोड़ सकते हैं । इसलिए जबतक आपके पास संशोधन न हो, आप उनको मत हटाये वरना बेकार होकर वह बैठ जायेंगे और आपकी जान खायेंगे । आप ऐसा प्रबन्ध करें जिससे उनको काम मिल सके न कि वह बेरोजगारी के मर्घट पर पहुँच जाये ।

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र (मधुबनी) : श्रीमन्, आज का यह विधेयक जो इस सदन में विचारार्थ आया है, मैं नहीं जानता कि मैं किन शब्दों में इस के प्रति अपनी प्रशंसा व्यक्त करूँ । मैं इस के लिए किस की तारीफ करूँ ? मेरी नजर में तो हमारी प्रधान मंत्री जी ही इस की तारीफ के लिए हकदार हैं, जो बहुत ही प्रगतिशील हैं और जिन का प्रशंसन बहुत चुस्त और दुरुस्त है—इस अवसर पर उनकी प्रशंसा किये बिना मैं नहीं रह सकता । जो काम हम आज तक नहीं कर पाये, आज इस विधेयक के द्वारा हम वह कार्य करने जा रहे हैं । हम को काफी पहले आजादी मिली, लेकिन हमारे विचारको और चिन्तको के मन में यह शंका थी कि क्या यही वास्तविक आजादी है? यह तो थोड़ा से लागो के लिए है, सब के लिए नहीं है । मैं इस अवसर पर आप का ध्यान डा० अम्बेदकर की तरफ ले जाना चाहता हूँ, जब आ गदी मिल गई और देश का संविधान बन रहा था, उस समय उन्होंने यह शर्त रखी की थी कि इन संविधान से समस्त मातृवता का कल्याण नहीं हो सकता, अभी भी मानव मानव का शोषण करना है । और यह शोषण आगे भी चलेगा । आज यदि वह जीवित होते तो उन को कितने खुशो होनी, आज वह दिन है जब कि देश की वास्तविक स्वतन्त्रता मिलने जा रही है । यह कहाँ का इन्फाक है कि मनुष्य मनुष्य का शोषण करे ।

इस सम्बन्ध में यदि मैं उन कुरीतियों का वर्णन करना शुरू कर दूँ, तो 6 बजे रायेंगे लेकिन मेरा भाषण समाप्त नहीं होगा और आप मुझे उतना समय नहीं देंगे । फिर भी मैं एक-दो बातों की चर्चा करूँगा—हम लोगों के यहाँ कुछ ऐसी परिपाटियाँ थी—जैसे कहार पात्की को उठा कर चलते थे और उस पात्की में लोग बैठते थे । कलकत्ता में तो आज भी ऐसी रिवाज चलती है जिन को मनुष्य खींचता है—यह कितनी अपमानित करने वाली चीज है । आज जब हम समाजवाद की बात करते हैं, देश के विकास की बात करते हैं । सब को समान अवसर देने की बात करते हैं तो इन चीजों की तरफ भी अपनी नजर दौड़ानी होगी और ऐसी परिपाटियों को समाप्त करना होगा । इस दृष्टि से यह विधेयक वास्तव में एक प्रगतिशील विधेयक है, मैं बार बार अपनी प्रशंसा इस के प्रति व्यक्त करता हूँ ।

परन्तु इस समस्या का समाधान केवल उन को छूट दे देने मात्र में नहीं होगा, आप ने उनको आजादी तो दे दी, लेकिन उन की ग्राह्यकारिक कठिनाइयों की तरफ भी आप का ध्यान देना होगा । हमें अब यह भी सोचना होगा कि उन लोगों का जीवन-निर्वाह कैसे होगा । कल जब मैं इस सदन में ग्रामीण बैंकों के सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार व्यक्त कर रहा था, तब यह भावना मेरे मन में चक्कर काट रही थी कि यदि उन की जीविका का हम उचित समाधान नहीं करते हैं, उन को अपने पैरों पर खड़े होने का अवसर नहीं देते हैं तो यह विधेयक एक व्यावहारिक रूप धारण नहीं कर सकेगा, और कागज के पत्रों में ही पड़ा रह जायेगा । मेरी प्रार्थना है कि इस पर कारगर कदम उठाये और जो भी नियम बनाये उन में इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि उन के साथ कोई अन्याय न हो, उन को रोजी और रोटी कमाने के उचित अवसर मिलें, नौकरियों में

[श्री जन-नाथ मिश्र]

पर्याप्त अवसर मिले और मानवता का अधिकार मिले ।

साथ ही विजिलेंस कमिटी में इन का प्रतिनिधित्व अवश्य रहना चाहिए, इस में कोई भी अगर-मगर की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए जब वे वहां बैठेंगे तो अपनी बात रख सकेंगे और इस तरह से उन की समस्याओं का समाधान हो सकेगा ।

बैक्स इस सम्बन्ध में बहुत बड़ा पात्र अदा कर सकते हैं । जिन ग्रामोण बैंकों की चर्चा हमने कल की थी—मेरा सुझाव है कि हमारे ये बैंक इतने मजबूत हों, उन में काम करने वाले इतने सुदृढ व्यक्ति हों, ईमानदार तो हों ही, जो इन लोगों को जीवन-यापन के लिए बिना किसी झ्याल के ऋण दे दें ताकि ये लोग अपनी जीविका चलाने में समर्थ हो सकें । अगर इन बातों का ध्यान रखा गया तो यह विधेयक सफल होगा । इस के लिए मैं मंत्री महोदय को पुनः धन्यवाद देता हूँ और इस का समर्थन करता हूँ ।

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dmdigul): Sir, I welcome the Bill on behalf of the Anna DMK of Tamilnadu. While the minister was speaking, he said that there was absolutely no bonded labour system prevalent in Tamilnadu. This is one side of the information given by the Tamilnadu Government led by the DMK. On the otherside, I am happy the minister could provide certain information that the bonded labour system was prevalent in certain places in Cuddalore, Nilgiri district and some other districts. I would like to say that bonded labour is cent per cent prevalent throughout Thanjavur district and also in some places in Madurai, Ramnad, Tirunelveli, Tiruchi and Chingleput districts. Therefore, I request the Government of India to appoint a commission once again to en-

quire into the prevalence of this system in Tamilnadu. I charge the Tamilnadu Government with absolutely misleading the Central Government by not giving the correct data about the prevalence of the bonded labour there. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, worked hard for the abolition of this system not only in India but in South Africa also. In the 20 point programme, this is one of the important points for implementation as propounded by the Prime Minister and supported by my party.

What are the reasons for the prevalence of this system? We have been pleading many time before this House and outside that the Government of India should introduce and enact and All India Agricultural Rural Indebtedness Relief Act. Only then we can give relief to the rural people, especially the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other backward communities throughout India. Unless rural indebtedness is removed, this evil system cannot be eradicated from the country. Therefore, the minister should introduce a Bill abolishing rural indebtedness throughout India.

Although I am a practising lawyer of the Madras High Court I come from a rural peasant family. Prices of certain essential commodities have come down in Tamilnadu. The prices of paddy and grains produced by the farmers have come down but not the prices of agricultural inputs. For example, prices of urea and other things are not coming down. Therefore, you must protect the poor peasants.

15 hrs.

Regarding casteism, it is in the worst form in India and particularly in Tamil Nadu.

Over and above the provisions laid down under articles 16 and 17, we

must make policies at all India level to avoid poverty and backwardness.

SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA (Chamarajanagar): I heartily welcome this measure which was long over-due. This problem of bonded labour has been discussed several times during the last 20 years while discussing the report of the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But what was the reaction of the Central Government then? They said that this problem was to be tackled by the State Governments. We know that State Governments have also passed legislations on this subject. Gujarat abolished this system in 1948; Maharashtra has got the General Labour Laws by which this practice is prohibited; Rajasthan has got Sagri System Abolition Act 1961; Lakshadweep had got Revenue & Tehaney Regulation Act, 1965; Kerala has got Bonded Labour System Act, 1972 and Orissa abolished this system in 1956. Therefore, it is not due to want of a legislation that this system was continuing. This point I want to make clear. When we suggested that this matter had to be taken up by the Centre by enacting a Central Law, the Government turned a deaf ear towards it. Fortunately, the emergency has come and our Prime Minister has taken it very seriously.

There are certain lacunae in the Bill which are to be removed. Perhaps, the Central Government feel that by passing a legislation the problem is solved. The problem will not be solved if you leave it to the States to implement it. Therefore, the Central Government should take the responsibility of implementing this Act. Unless the people who are victims of the system are taken care of properly, the system will persist.

Nothing is said about the rehabilitation of the bonded labour. There is one article 35 which says that this is a matter which requires to be taken up by the Centre. What is the financial provision made for the rehabilitation? Nothing, at all. The Minister

says that the present plan scheme can be made use of for rehabilitation. I think, this is not sufficient. I suggest, the Government of India should involve itself by appointing at least a review committee.

Secondly, there are some systems which have been mentioned by the Commissioner in his report but they are not included in the list of Bonded Labour System. Therefore, I suggest that these systems should be incorporated in this Bill also. Unless the economic position of bonded labour is improved, I think there is no solution. Therefore, I want the Government to make special provisions to improve the economic conditions of these people, particularly the bonded labour who mostly come from the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput): I welcome this bill because the system is mainly prevalent in the tribal communities; and the system is still prevalent in different parts of the country. The Minister had once replied that it is in the Fifth Schedule and not in the Sixth Schedule. I think that in the eastern States, viz. Assam and Nagaland also, this system is prevalent; but due to lack of survey by Government, the fact is yet to come to its notice. I want to give some suggestions. No doubt the Labour Minister drafts the bill; but it concerns different Ministries. The Ministry of Home Affairs is mainly responsible for the tribes; and the Finance Ministry is responsible for the allocation of resources for developmental work; and the Labour Ministry is concerned only with minimum wages. It is not a question only of minimum wages; it is also one of exploitation of tribals as human beings. The area can develop if it is given help; but in the tribal areas, the human beings are exploited, rather than Nature, because the tribals are innocent. When the survey is conducted, the tribals are unable to express their viewpoint, because they have different languages. It is also due to fear sometimes that

[Shri Giridhar Gomango]

they cannot indicate that they were serving as bonded labour under either the landlord or the money-lender. We can rehabilitate them and develop their areas if we make some provisions in the Plan budget or if we take some serious action against exploiters. But it is not possible to do this unless there is a special rule to catch these exploiters and punish them. There is a different kind of a provision here, but there should be a separate legislation to catch hold of the exploiter in any form. Then only can the problem be solved. This is a human problem. But it is related to the economic problem. Who will tackle the social problem? The tribes are in the interior of the State and the officers are in the capital and the investigating officer goes to the tribal areas and brings in a report. But there is no common provision. The job is done in a different manner in different departments. We can constitute a committee, and the committee can look into the matter in detail. But about the action taken after the committee's report is available I am very doubtful. Government of India have set up commissions like the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Commission, and different States have passed different Acts. But till to day the system is still prevalent in different parts of the country.

Lastly I would request the Labour Minister to see that in regard to the part of the work relating to his Ministry, he should take serious action. Other parts of the work relating to the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance should be tackled by these Ministries.

I conclude my submission by saying that I welcome this because the age old system of bonded labour is sought to be abolished. It was prevalent and it is still prevalent. It is being abolished by this Act but we should see to it that it is abolished in practice.

श्री गाबूराम अहिरवार (टीकमगढ़)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बिल का समर्थन

करते हुए मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। कहा जाता है कि सदियों पहले जब हमारा देश बसा होगा, उस समय जो बाहर से आये, उन्होंने यहाँ के मूल निवासियों को गुलाम बनाया था। तब से यह प्रथा हमारे देश में चालू है। आगे चलकर बड़े-बड़े राजा-पहाराजाओं, जमींदारों और मनी-लेंडरों ने इस प्रथा को अपना लिया। हरिजन आदिवासियों को एक दास की तरह रखा गया। वे लोग खेती में काम करते थे, उनकी औरतें गोबर-मानी का काम करती थीं और बच्चे मवेशियों को चराते थे। यह प्रथा आज भी चालू है।

मध्य प्रदेश के बघेल खंड के क्षेत्र में बड़े लोगों की जमीन में हरिजन आदिवासी बसे हुए हैं। वहाँ उनको एक झोपड़ी बनाकर दे दी जाती है। ब्रह्मग कहते हैं कि चूक रामचन्द्र जी इस इलाके से निकले थे। इसलिए हरिजन और आदिवासी वहाँ हल नहीं चला सकते हैं और अगर वह चलावे हैं तो उनको जाति से निकाल दिया जाता है। इसलिए वे बेचारे झोली लेकर भीख मागने के लिए विवश होते हैं।

इस विधेयक में यह प्रावधान किया गया है कि बान्डेड लेबर प्रथा को खत्म करने के बाद उन लोगों को मकान से वंचित नहीं किया जायेगा। लेकिन उनके लिए जमीन की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। अगर उनको मकान मिल भी गया तो खेती के लिए जमीन कहाँ से मिलेगी, इसकी व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक है। कल उसकी लड़की की शादी होगी और अन्य आवश्यक कार्य करने होंगे। अगर उन लोगों के लिए वैकल्पिक रोजगार की व्यवस्था नहीं की जायेगी तो उनको भीख मागने के लिए चौराहे पर खड़ा होना पड़ेगा। इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि उनको खेती के लिए जमीन हल, बील और जहरी औजार देने की व्यवस्था की जाये। उन्हें अपनी आजीविका चलाने के लिए आवश्यक सुविधाएँ देनी चाहिए, ताकि वे आगे चलकर अपने पैरों पर खड़े हो सकें।

मध्य प्रदेश में छत्तीसगढ़ इलाके में हरिजन आदिवासी 50,100 रुपये लेकर अपने 8,10 साल के लड़कों को साहूकार के यहाँ रख देते हैं। वह बच्चा जिन्दगी भर वहीं रहता है और अपने घर नहीं आ सकता है। अगर वह अपने घर आता है, तो घर वाले उसको मारते हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें डर रहता है कि ऐसा करने पर, दूसरे लड़कों को साहूकार अपने यहाँ नहीं बुलायेगा। यदि साहूकार या जमींदार को उस बच्चे की सेवा की जरूरत नहीं है, तो यह किसी दूसरे जमींदार को बेच देता है।

हाल ही में छत्तीसगढ़ का एक हरिजन मेरे पास आया। उसने कहा कि मेरा बाप मेरी शादी के लिए साहूकार से 400 रुपये लाया था। वह साहूकार के पास 12 साल काम करता रहा और उसके बाद मैंने वहाँ पर 16 साल काम किया। हमें काम करते हुए 28 साल हो गये, लेकिन आज भी हम पर 1600 रुपये और 50 मन गल्ला बकाया है।

कानून तो बनाये जाते हैं, लेकिन उनका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन नहीं होता है। छुआछूत के सम्बन्ध में जो कानून बनाया गया है, उसकी भी यही स्थिति है।

इस बिल को कार्यान्वित करने में पुलिस क्या सहायता करेगी, इसका प्रावधान नहीं किया गया? बिजिलेंस कमेटी में क्लैक्टर और मजिस्ट्रेट को बेयरमैन बनाया गया है। वे लोग बड़े जमींदारों के लड़के होते हैं; वे हरिजन और आदिवासियों के लड़के नहीं होते हैं। मैं धावू कहूँगा कि इन कमेटियों का बेयरमैन किसी मान-आफिशियल को बनाइये और मजिस्ट्रेट या क्लैक्टर को उसका सैक्रेटरी बनाया जाये। तभी इन कानून का अच्छी तरह से पालन हो सकेगा।

इन कमेटियों के पास पुलिस का पावरलेंस भी चाहिए। अगर कोई व्यक्ति किसी से

जबरदस्ती काम करवाता है या जमीन छीनता है, तो कमेटी को उसका खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने का अधिकार होना चाहिए। यह भी देखा गया है कि अगर किसी गरीब ने अपनी कोई चीज किसी साहूकार या जमींदार के पास गिरवी रखी है, तो वह साहूकार हमेशा उससे काम करवाता है। खेत में पैदा वह गरीब आदमी करता है, लेकिन उसका पैसा सारा साहूकार के घर में आता है। इसी तरह बड़े-बड़े जमींदारों ने हलवाहों के नाम जमीन के पट्टे बनवाये हुए हैं, लेकिन उस जमीन की उपज जमींदारों के घर से जाती है, जबकि वह हलवाहों से नौकरी भी करवाता है।

यह बड़े अफसोस की बात है कि इस प्रथा को खत्म करने के लिए अभी तक कोई कानूनी कदम नहीं उठाया गया है। लेकिन देर आयद दुस्त आयद। अगर सरकार चाहती है कि इस प्रथा से जो लोग मुक्त हों, वे अपने पैरो पर खड़े हो सकें, तो सहकारी बैंकों की शाखाओं द्वारा इतने साधन उपलब्ध किए जायें कि हरेक मजदूर को खेती और मकान के लिए जमीन मिल जाये और उसमें बच्चों के पढ़ने-लिखने का प्रबन्ध हो जाए, तभी उनका भला होगा।

श्री अनादि चरण दास (बाजपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में बान्डेड लेबर सिस्टम को समाप्त करने के लिए जो विधेयक पेश हुआ है, वह बहुत सराहनीय है और उसमें लिए मैं मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। बान्डेड लेबर खासतौर पर हरिजनों और आदिवासियों के बच्चों में देखी जाती है। इस बारे में बहुत से माननीय सदस्य अपने विचार प्रकट कर चुके हैं। हरिजन और आदिवासी इलाकों में यह भयंकर प्रथा खास तौर से मौजूद रही है। भगवान ने उन लोगों को जीवन दिया है, लेकिन ऐसा जीवन नहीं देना चाहिए था। वे तो पशुओं से भी हीन जीवन व्यतीत करते हैं। समाज के उच्च वर्ग के लोगों की बखल से यह प्रथा अभी तक चली आ रही है।

[श्री अनादि चरण दास]

अमेरिका की दास प्रथा की तरह उड़ीसा में गोपी प्रथा है। हम लोग उस प्रथा को समाप्त कराने के लिए लड़े हैं, कई बार जेल में भी गये हैं और साहूकारी से हमने मार खाई है यहां पर 1956 में एक गोपी अबालिशन रैग्यूलेशन लागू था। इसके बावजूद इस प्रथा को समाप्त करने में सफलता नहीं मिली। इस देश में ब्यूरोक्रेट्स और उच्च वर्ग के प्रोत्साहन के कारण यह प्रथा अभी तक चालू है। सरकार ने यह जो कदम उठाया है, उसने लिए हम उसने आभारी हैं।

गोपी या बान्डेड लेबर सबसे गरीब होते हैं। यह कानून पाम कर के हम उनको राहत देना चाहते हैं। इसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि हम इस दिशा में उचित और प्रभावशाली कदम उठाये। केन्द्रीय सरकार यह कानून पास करने जा रही है, यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है। लेकिन उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन कैसे किया जायेगा, इस बारे में मैं कुछ मजेश्चस्स देना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि मुझे इस बारे में कुछ अनुभव है।

जो गोपी बान्डेड लेबर इस कानून के द्वारा मुक्त किये जायेंगे, उनको 5 साल के लिये एक सर्टिफिकेट देना चाहिए, जिससे यह प्रकट हो कि यह बान्डेड लेबर था। गांव गांव जाकर इसने लिये कैम्पेन करना चाहिये और जहां जहां बान्डेड लेबर है, उनको तुरन्त मुक्त कर देना चाहिये। कोर्ट में जाकर दरखवास्त देकर उन लोगों को मुक्त करना असान नहीं है। हम लोगों ने और हमारी सरकार ने इसने लिये बहुत कोशिश की, लेकिन यह नहीं हो पाया। मैजिस्ट्रेट और तहसीलदार गांव में जाकर बान्डेड लेबर को मुक्त करने के लिये कदम उठाये सरकार की तरफ से सुप्रोमोटो यह कार्य करना जरूरी है।

जो लोग मुक्त हों, उनको काम के उचित अवसर देना बहुत जरूरी है। उनको तुरन्त नौकरी या कोई अन्य काम करने की सुविधा देनी चाहिये। बान्डेड लेबर का घर साहूकार की जमीन पर होता है। उनके पास कोई जमीन नहीं है। बान्डेड लेबर, जहां कसन्ट्रिड हो, वहां उनको रिहबलीटेड करना चाहिये। इस बात की भी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये कि साहूकार और उनके गुंड या पुलिस तथा अन्य सरकारी अधिकारी उन लोगों को तंग न कर सके।

जहां तक हो सके, इस काम को वालन्टरी आर्गनाइजेशन को सौंप देना चाहिये, क्योंकि सरकार में जो लोग होते हैं उनका क्लास कैक्टर, दूसरा होता है। वे बड़े बड़े साहूकारों और जमींदारों के लड़के होते हैं। इसीलिये उनमें द्वारा यह काम ठीक तरह से नहीं हो पाता है। हमारी पोलिटिकल पार्टीज को भी यह काम सौंपना चाहिये।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री भूल चन्द डागा (पाली)। मैं आज बहुत बड़ा धन्यावाद तो आप को देता हूँ। लेकिन मैंने एक पिक्चर देखी थी पाकीजा जिसमें एक गाना सुना था कि इन्हीं लोगों ने वे लिया डपट्टा मेरा। यह गरीबी जो है यही सारे पाप की जड़ है। कानून मत बनाइए, गरीबों को दूर कर दीजिए। कानून बनाने से क्या लाभ होगा? वह जो कानून आप ने बनाया है इसमें डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट खुदा है। वो सौ काम डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट के जिम्मे है। जो कोई कानून बनेगा उसमें डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट जरूर रहेगा। मैं नहीं समझ पाता कि वह डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट किसका काम करेगा। दूसरे, सच-डिबीजनल मैजिस्ट्रेट या ब्याक बैकलपसैड आफिसर्स

बिलेज लेवेन वर्कर्स के वहाँ है ? फिर इस आफेंस की कागिनजेबल, बनाने के बाद आप बलेबल क्यों बनाते हैं ? यह नानवेलेबल होना चाहिए। तीसरी बात यह है—ग्रबेटमेंट क्या होता है ? ग्रबेटमेंट में कौन आएगा ? एक आदमी लेबर रखता है तो क्या उस की औरत आएगी ग्रबेटमेंट में ? मैं अभी तक नहीं समझा इस का क्या मतलब है—इमोएवर ग्रबेटस गील बी पनिशेबल ग्रंडर दिस ऐक्ट—इसका क्या मतलब है ? ये कानून सारे आप के किताबों में ही रहेंगे जरूर तारीफ आप की होगी कि आप ने बड़ा अच्छा कानून बनाया। लेकिन उस से कुछ होगा नहीं। आप गरीबी मिटाइए। यही एक तरीका उसका है। लेकिन हम लोग आंसू पोंछना बहुत जानते हैं। यह बुद्धिजीवी जो है यह बड़ा स्वार्थी होता है। यह कहेंगा हम ने वह कानून बना दिया, गरीबी मिटा दी। लेकिन वास्तव में कुछ भी होगा नहीं। कहीं भी इस तरह की पिक्चर देहातो में नहीं दिखाई जाती। मैं कहेंगा कि सारे सिनेमाघर गावों में बनाइए और उन को बताइए कि हिन्दुस्तान में करोड़ आदमी राष्ट्रपति हो सकता है। लेकिन वह बन कैसे मंगा, उस के लिए उस पाम साधन चाहिए। वह साधन उसको उपलब्ध होने चाहिए। इन प्राविजन्स में कहा है कि जब उस को भूख लगेगी, रोटी की जरूरत होगी क्यों कि पेट है तो उस को भरने का तरीका क्या होगा ? कौन देगा उस को रोटी ? कौन देगा उसको पैसे ? उस के लिए आप बैंक खोलिए और उन की जरूरत पर उन को पैसा दीजिए। छोटे छोटे सिनेमाघर गांवों में बनाइए और वहाँ इन्काल पैदा कीजिए। आप इन्काल करेंगे ट्रैडिगों पर कि हम ने ऐसा कानून बना दिया। लेकिन उस से कुछ नहीं होगा। आप गरीबी मिटाइए। बाकी सब अपने आप हो जायगा।

आप ने कमेटी बनाई है। उस के मेम्बर, कौन होंगे और यह कमेटी करेगी क्या

यह कमेटी क्यों बना रहे है ? कमेटी बनाने का मतलब गांव की बंटाघार करना। गांवों में जो गुंडे नौग होने हैं उन के खिलाफ कोई गवाही नहीं देता और यह देखिए आप कि हमारे सरपंच कहां जाता है खाना खाने बड़े आदमी के यहां, धनवान के यहां। प्रधान कहां जाता है, मंत्री कहा जाते हैं ? गरीब के यहां कोई नहीं जाता उन के आंसू पोछने, उस के घर पर कभी कोई नहीं जाता रहने के लिए। तो मेरा यह कहना है कि आप गरीबी मिटाइए अन्यथा ये कानून जितने हैं उनको सजा कर किताबों में रखिए और शहद लगाकर चाटिए इनको। अगर उनका भला करना है तो सिर्फ गरीबी दूर कर दीजिए, बड़े-बड़े पंजीपतियों से धन लेकर उनको दे दीजिए, तब जा कर सब अपने आप ठीक हो जायगा।

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय (सागर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करती हूं और साथ साथ कहना चाहती हूं कि मजदूर जो है वह अंग्रेजी राज के जमाने से दबा हुआ है। सन् 47 के बाद आजादी जो मिली तो उस से हरिजनों को राहत तो मिली है, पहले से बहुत अच्छी तरह हम लोग हैं लेकिन देहात के अंदर जैसी समस्या पहले की वैसी ही पड़ी है क्यों कि पुराने जमींदार, जागीरदार और राजा लोग हम से वासता का काम कराने रहे हैं। वही आदत उन की आज भी पड़ी हुई है। अगर गांवों में उन के खेत में काम करने न जायें तो हमारे भाई पिता या बहनें तो सबेरे चौपाल पर या दरवाजे पर बुला कर बांध कर मरवाते हैं और जब बर्बती काम लेते हैं। नहीं करें तो कहेंगे कि गांव से निकल जाओ, हमारे खेत में से नहीं निकसना, हमारे खेत में मत जाना। ऐसी स्थिति से मजदूर की हालत बहुत खराब है।

आप ने मजदूरी निर्धारित की है दो तरह की। लेकिन देहात में तीन तरह की मजदूरी है। एक तो जो बीड़ी बनाने वाले

[श्रीमती सहोवरा बाई राय]

हैं उन की भ्रमण है, जो खेतिहर मजदूर हैं उनकी भ्रमण है और जो रोजमर्रा काम करते हैं घर बनाने का या सड़कों में जा कर रिक्सा चलाए जाने का उन की भ्रमण है। एक आमदमी बीस रुपए भी कमाता है और सी रुपए भी कमाता है और देहात में किसान जो हैं वह 8-10 रुपए मजदूर को नहीं दे सकता है। देहात में 12 महीने में 6 महीने खेती होती है, 8 रु० वह अगर मजदूरी देवे तो दे नहीं सकता है क्यों कि उसकी आमदनी नहीं है। कोई और जरिया वहां पर आमदनी का है नहीं इसलिए 5-6 रुपया भी वह मुश्किल से देते हैं नहीं तो लगाते ही नहीं हैं। फिर आखिर मजदूर कहाँ जायें ? वहाँ पर कोई उद्योग धंधे भी नहीं है जहाँ जाकर वह मजदूरी कर सकें। ऐसी हालत में वहाँ पर दगा बहुत खराब है।

औरतों की दशा और भी खराब है। हमारे भाई लोग तो खेत में हल चलाने के लिए चले गए लेकिन जो औरतें हैं वह सारे दिन गोबर इकट्ठा करती हैं, फिर धोपती हैं, फिर बर्तन मलती हैं और उसके बाद दूसरे सारे घर के काम करती हैं। उसके बाद कहीं मालकिन ने उसको दो रोटी दे दी या आधा किलो धान दे दिया। ऐसी हालत में मजदूरी को निर्धारित करना बड़ा कठिन काम है। अभी मैं अपने क्षेत्र में गई थी, वहाँ खेरिया लड़कियों की शादी थी, और जो लेन देन था लेकिन किसी ने कर्जा नहीं दिया। जब लेकर मालिकों के घर गए लेकिन किसी ने उसको नहीं रखा क्योंकि उनको पता है इस तरह का कर्जा छूट जायेगा आज कोई भी कर्जा नहीं देता है। सोनार जब नहीं रखता है। मजदूर दल को आज बड़ी दिक्कत हो गई है।

महिलाओं को भी आज बड़ी दिक्कत आ रही है। उनके लिए भी खेती में मजदूरी निर्धारित होनी चाहिये। कोई भी खेती

बिना महिलाओं के चल नहीं सकती है। और मजदूर दल के बिना यह देश नहीं चल सकता है। मिलिट्री, सड़क और आपने घर में, कहीं भी मजदूर दल के बिना काम नहीं चल सकता है। एक बमटी में मैं नागार्लंड और दूसरी जगह गई तो देखा हर जगह हरिजनो की बड़ी हालत है। उनको पीने का पानी नहीं मिलता, उनको मारा जाता है। बैकरी एरियाज की भी बड़ी हालत है। तो इससे लिए सरकार को जल्दी से जल्दी कदम उठाने चाहिये।

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am extremely thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in the debate on the various provisions of this Bill. They have made some very valuable points in relation to vigilance committees and, mainly, to the rehabilitation problem of the bonded labour who by virtue of this Bill will be liberated from the bondage. These are some of the issues which have been raised by the hon. Members from all sides and it will be my endeavour to deal with these questions and the various points that have been made out by them.

With respect to the rehabilitation problem, it is not that the Central Government is feeling either shy or wants to be silent about it. The fact remains that this is a problem that has to be dealt with by the State Governments by their active participation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He may continue the next day. We now take up the Private Members Business.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bill to be introduced.

Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal....not here,

Bill for withdrawal. Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma....not here,

15.20 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL—contd.***(Amendment of articles 22, 32, etc.)
by Shri Dinesh Bhattacharyya.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER We take up further consideration of the Bill to amend the Constitution by Shri Dinesh Bhattacharyya.

Shri Dinesh Joarder to continue his speech.

15.30 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI DINESH JOARDER (Malda)
Mr Speaker, Sir, the other day we were discussing the Constitution Amendment Bill in respect of Art 22, Art 32, Art 226 and Art 311, Sir, it was particularly Art 22 of the Constitution where there is a provision for preventive detention empowering the Executive the Government to take away or curtail the fundamental rights of the citizen that have been guaranteed in the Constitution itself and also particularly in Art 13 and other relevant Articles. In the same breath the fundamental rights and civil liberties of the free citizens of our democratic republic of India guaranteed in Art 32 have been taken away. We know what sort of movements were going on in our country at the time when this provision was incorporated in the Constitution. In a large part of the country the peasantry was very much agitated and there were peasant movements all over the country before our independence and just after independence. The peasantry were actually fighting the land lords—in many parts of the country and also in many native States of the kings and native lords, and in other parts against the zamindars and landlords. The peasant movements were at that time mostly being led by the Communist Party. There were also other popular movements—the trade-union movement and others—for es-

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establishing their rights and privileges for their livelihood, for their wages and also for the recognition of the trade union rights and other things. These things were going on when the Constitution was being framed. And before the Constitution came into force also there were popular demands for the abolition of the zamindari system, landlordism and the feudal system and the labourers got new enthusiasm after independence to fight the industrialists, the mill owners and also the capitalists and there were many popular mass movements in the country. In that context, the preventive detention powers against the leaders of these movements began to be used. It came first in West Bengal where popular movements were there to a very high degree. And who were the victims of the preventive detention? Mostly leaders of the Communist Party and also leaders of the peasant movement, the trade-union movement, labour movement, the democratic movements became the victims of the preventive detention. Previously the BCLA (Benal Criminal Laws Amendment Act) was declared null and void by the High Court because it was derogatory to the fundamental rights that were guaranteed by rule of Law. Then came the question as to how they could be detained without bringing them to the law courts. Certain State Governments took recourse to framing certain laws preventive laws and ultimately the Central Government agreed to accept the proposal of these State Governments who were unable to face the popular movements. Thus the Draconian provision was incorporated in the Constitution. On the one hand in one article of the Constitution we say that certain Fundamental Rights are guaranteed to the free citizens and at the same time in article 22 we are taking away those rights and are empowering the State Governments to frame laws enabling the State Governments to detain any citizen for any period. Originally it was stated 'not more than three months', but subsequently it was enlarged and enlarged. Ultimately in 1971 when the ruling

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Party under the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi; got the massive mandate, Article 13, where the Fundamental Rights are guaranteed, was amended, to incorporate the following provision, namely,

"Nothing in this Article shall apply to any amendment of this Constitution made under article 368."

That means, now, the Parliament is empowered, not actually the Parliament, but the Government, the ruling Party, is empowered to frame any sort of laws curtailing the Fundamental Rights of the free citizens

Regarding the incorporation of the provision for preventive detention in the Constitution itself, it has been our experience in the last 27 or 28 years, after Independence, that this provision has only given the power to the State to apply it against its political opposition and also against the popular movements and mass movements and their leaders, when any agitation or democratic movement takes place and reaches such a degree that it becomes popular and the Government cannot face that, they apply these preventive detention laws. And very well this is the situation now also in the country. You have already detained many of the Opposition leaders and MPs, including your own men. What is the reason behind it? That is because you are not able to rule in the same manner as you ruled previously, and now you want certain other powers to coerce people to bow down before you and not raise their voice of opposition, discontent and resentment. That is why, you are applying the preventive detention laws in a larger measure. Thousands of citizens are put behind the bars under this provision. It has been our experience that the preventive detention laws are not being applied against the actual anti-social elements or against such class of people who are actually exploiting the large masses and the poor people of our country, and the black-marketeers

and hoarders. What we have experienced is that in the name of security of the nation, you have detained many opposition leaders, political party leaders, particularly many workers of our party, leaders of the peasants movement, trade union movement etc. They have not been released as yet. But those who were detained under the name of hoarders and black-marketeers under MISA and the Preventive Detention law, were released within 10, 12 or 15 days. In my constituency alone—it is a small district, after the promulgation of Emergency, there were as many as 400 or so MISA cases and about 100 people belonging to our party or associated with the popular movement as also some businessmen were arrested under MISA. But what happened? After 10—15 days, all those businessmen were released, their detentions were not confirmed by the State Government, whereas many of the detenus belonging to our party and belonging to the popular movement and peasants movement are still under detention. This is the result of the Preventive Detention laws. We are dead against this sort of preventive detention measures that have been incorporated in the Constitution and the powers that have been given under those provisions. That is why, I support the Bill that has been brought by our hon. friend Shri Dinesh Bhattacharyya, particularly this part of the amendment of the Bill.

As regards Article 32, power has been given to the High Courts and Supreme Court as a measure of guarantee for the fundamental rights of the citizens. Whenever there is any curtailment or infringement on such rights, any citizen can seek the protection of the High Courts or Supreme Court. That power has been given under Article 32. This Bill wants to incorporate one proviso, that is:

"Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall have no power to entertain any proceedings or to issue any direction or order or writ under Clauses (1) or

(2), in any matter where any order or direction to any appropriate Government or authority regarding distribution of land vested in the State under any law of Estate Acquisition is called in question"

We have seen that though land distribution measures and land reform measures were passed in the year 1953-54 in many of the States particularly in West Bengal but these were not implemented till 1967 when in all most all States Congress lost their power and the opposition Governments came in. It was only then that the question of distribution of land was thought of and some steps were taken

These laws the Estate Acquisition and Land Reforms laws were passed in many States long before—not because at that time i.e. 1954-54 the Congress was much progressive but because it was the culmination of a long drawn fight against the landlords and the Zamindars and the kings of the native States and also the freedom movement and particularly the movements that were going on in the years 1947-1948 and 1949 the movement of the share croppers the movement of the landless labour and also the movement of the peasantry which was high in various parts particularly in Telangana and West Bengal. After that in 1952 in the First General Elections, the Congress were compelled or were forced to take those measures and to declare and announce that if they won they would go forward with land reforms and estates acquisition. Because of that, because of those peoples' movements, these Estate Acquisition and Land Reforms Acts were passed in 1953-54 and thereafter in many States even though the Acts were passed, they were not implemented before 1967 and after 1967, when the Congress lost in many States including West Bengal, the question of land distribution came in and particularly where parties like CPI(M) and CPI were partners in Coalition Governments actual land reforms were started under their guidance and leadership

But difficulties came in at the time of actual implementation of those land reforms. When the question of distribution of land came in, when some lands were actually distributed to the peasants and when they took over the possession of the vested lands in some places clashes began with the landlords and in some places, the landlords went to High Courts and other civil courts and also to Supreme Court seeking protection of their vested interests and those cases remained pending for years numerous cases started and land distribution was ultimately frustrated

Though there is a provision of right to property is a fundamental right, we want that this right should not be guaranteed in the Constitution and should not be included in the Fundamental Rights. Still when there is such a right we want that in Article 32 where these fundamental rights have been guaranteed and any citizen can seek the protection of the Supreme Court and High Courts for their rights to be restored in that particular article we want that there should be a provision whereby the Supreme Court, the High Court or any civil court shall have no power to interfere or take cognizance of any matter concerning land distribution. If that land which was already vested in the State or is liable to be vested in the State or the land already possessed by and standing in the name of a landless if any dispute comes up before the courts in regard to this land the courts shall not interfere. This is the main purpose of the amendment to Art 32. I also welcome this amendment and this part of the Bill also

Similarly, in Article 226 with regard to the power of the High Court and the Supreme Court to issue writs of *Certiorari*, writs of *Mandamus* and other writs there also we want this provisions should be included that any case regarding the distribution of or vesting of land or concerning distribution of vested land should not come under the jurisdiction of the High Court or the Supreme Court and the

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civil courts will have no power to take cognizance of these cases.

Now, I come to my last point. Under Article 311 of the Constitution of India, security of service of the civil officers has been guaranteed. It reads:

311(1) "No person who is a member of a civil service of the Union or an all-India service or a civil service of a State or holds a civil post under the Union or a State shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed."

This provision protects the rights of the civil service people holding posts under the Central or State Governments. If some doubt arises in regard to their conduct, etc., action is taken against them after giving them full opportunity to explain or to defend their case.

I would draw your attention to proviso (c) which reads:

(c) "where the President or the Governor, as the case may be, is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the State it is not expedient to hold such inquiry."

This means that even without holding any enquiry or even without assigning any reasons whatsoever the Governor or the President can dismiss at any time any Government officer without giving him an opportunity to defend his own case. Under the cover of this provision in the Constitution, we have seen that during these days hundreds of Government officers are being dismissed and thrown out of their office every day. Now you are taking the plea of 'emergency' and of bringing discipline in the Government offices and also of taking certain measures against the incompetent, insincere officers. I may tell the House that even before emergency hundreds of employees due to certain political motivation and also due to certain other reasons had been thrown out of em-

ployment. Those reasons would not at all have made them liable to dismissal i.e. certain employees were forming union, certain groups of employees were demanding certain privileges where the working conditions were not very congenial so that they could work efficiently. They were also demanding their right to form association. To terrorise Government employees, they have been using this proviso (c) to Article 311. This is there in (b) and (c) proviso; it is their in the last part of sub-section (3). This should be omitted. It is a welcome step that no employee of the Govt. should be dismissed without giving opportunity of defending himself or going to court, without benefit of enquiry, without taking all legal procedures etc. No employee either of the Centre or of the States should be dismissed without these. In West Bengal we know this. They formed a coordination committee. They formed a non-political trade union association of their own. They achieved many benefits fighting under the banner of this coordination committee. They achieved many privileges and benefits to the enumerable employees of Government. Large sections of such Government employees were benefited. It was a very strong association. To liquidate this association hundreds of the leaders of the coordination committee and State Government employees serving the Government for more than 15, 20 or 25 years were all on a sudden served with notices that the Governor has been pleased and so they are dismissed, and thrown out of employment. Hundreds of employees in West Bengal have been thrown out of employment under the provision of this Article of the Constitution and in all the other States also these things are going on. Under the plea of emergency you have already thrown and dismissed thousands of employees in the Centre and the different State Governments. This is undemocratic, unprincipled, derogatory to fundamental and democratic rights of citizens. This is a black

provision incorporated in the Constitution. So we want that these provisions under Art. 311 should go. This should be omitted.

I support this Bill. I want that this House should adopt this Bill. I request the Law Minister to accept this Bill and get the Constitution accordingly amended in the best interests of the free citizens of our country.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridih): The opposition unfortunately during the tenure of the debate has been taking two contrary positions. In some cases they would like the power of the Supreme Court to be curtailed. In other cases as in this Bill when it comes to the right of the enquiry about Corruption and so on, they say neither the Governor nor the President nor the officer concerned shall have any say in the matter.

The Bill is a sort of an Indian rope trick. If these people none of them, have any right to consider these cases, then who under the heavens, is going to consider the cases? What happens? The question basically is whether the writs of *habeas corpus mandamus certiorari* should operate and continue to operate; some of these rights we borrowed from the British juridical system. The position with reference to writs has always to be equated with the responsibility. The situation should never have arisen in the first place if the Opposition had played its role with responsibility understanding and making constructive suggestions. Some of these changes including this Emergency had to come about in the context (*Interruptions*).... you are a bonded labour; you are a prisoner of your experience of your own party of Marxism which is a derailed bogie. Now you can call it a revolutionary marxism. That marxism is fractured in fragments now. (*Interruptions*). Which variety of coat you would like to turn to—Chinese, Cuban, Yugoslavian or Russian or of

indigenous variety? You first decide that. I know where I stand? All of us have to go through the first preliminary classes in our colleges. And I certainly have reached a higher philosophy and a completer synthesis through and beyond marxism which you have not done. Your philosophy is fractured. I am here merely replying in kind to what you say. (*Interruptions*).

16 hrs.

Anyway the point is a simple one. How far should our rights be protected to operate in the interest of democracy in the interest of right to free expression. The limits are set by the responsibility with which these rights are discharged. If there is a character assassination, if there is a smear campaign, if there is daily disturbance in the Lok Sabha itself and if there is a threat of *dharna*, then what else can be done? These are all contributed by my friends on the opposite side with some exception of course. (*Interruptions*).

16.01 hrs

[**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN**—in the Chair.]

In that case, you are really trying to subvert the democratic system and its functioning. (*Interruptions*). I do not know in which coat you are? Your entire party is a party derailed from the main line of Marxism long ago. That is why you find in such a grand company of Jansangh! The dialectics of history brought the extreme right and the so-called extreme left together into a strange bedfellowship!

Now, Sir, coming to the Bill proper, I oppose it for the very simple reason that the Bill is ill-conceived and it will only impede the functioning of the implementation of the 20-point programme under the emergency scheme.

[Shri Chapalendu Bhattacharyya]

I appeal to the Opposition of all shades that India, in the present context, can ill afford this spectacle of wrangle. We have put all our shoulders together to the wheel. The population explosion is before us. That one fact alone will lead us to greater illiteracy rather than growth of literacy and worsening of living standards. On the other hand there are serious challenges of subversion from outside elements supported by some of the internal friends.

In the circumstances, I oppose the Bill because this Bill itself is not properly conceived and shot through and through with contradictions.

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार (टीकमगढ़)
सभापति महोदय, यहां पर जो संविधान संशोधन विधेयक प्रस्तुत हुआ है, मैं उसका विरोध करता हूँ। इसके द्वारा माननीय सदस्य ने न्यायालय के अधिकार भागे हैं। एक ओर तो वे कहते हैं कि न्यायालय में इतने अधिकार नहीं होने चाहिए क्योंकि जब केरल में इनकी सरकार थी तो इनके दल के नेता ने वहाँ पर मुख्य मंत्री की हैसियत में न्यायालय के खिलाफ आवाज उठाई थी कि न्यायालय में बड़े बड़े घण्टासेठों के लड़के हैं जोकि जनता के हित में काम नहीं कर सकते हैं इसलिए उनको हटाना चाहिए।

(व्यवधान) केरल में यहाँ तक हालत हो गई कि वहाँ मजिस्ट्रेट ने इन्कार कर दिया कि हम कैसे काम करें। मुकदमा होता था, तो इन के कार्यकर्ता जाते थे और मैजिस्ट्रेट से कहते थे कि ऐसा कीजिये, इस आदमी ने क्लक किया है, इसको छोड़ दीजिये, ये अपने मन की अदालत चाहते हैं, जनता के हित के लिये नहीं। ये संविधान में उस तरह का अधिकार मांगते हैं, जो उस में कम किये गये हैं। लेकिन दूसरी पार्टीज ने जो देश में माहौल बना रखा था, उस से जन-जीवन दूषित हो गया था, देश का एक एक नगरिक परेशान था। आज से छः

महीने पहले की बात किसी से पूछ लीजिये, क्या हालत थी? लोग कहते थे—देश में कोई शासन भी है या नहीं? किसी का जीवन सुरक्षित नहीं था। आप इतने अधिकार मांगते हैं, लेकिन वे वही तक सही हो जाते हैं, जब तक दूसरों के अधिकारों का हनन हो। धर्म वही अच्छा है, जो दूसरों के धर्म का हनन न करे। आप को मालूम होना चाहिये—जैसा कि किसी विद्वान ने कहा है—

"Religion is all after when it produces better citizens. If it fingers at others' liberty then it is a curse."

जब हम अपने पूरे राजनीतिक अधिकार मांगते हैं तो यह जरूरी है कि हमारा पड़ोसी भी उतने ही अधिकारों का भोगी हो, लेकिन आप कहते हैं कि जो कुछ हम कहें वही सही अधिकार है, बाकी हिन्दु-तान में कोई नहीं है। इस तरह से थोड़े से आदमी अपने अधिकारों को बनाना चाहते हैं . . . (व्यवधान) . . . आप ने देखा—संविधान बदला जाता है तो जनता के हित के लिये बदला जाता है। समाज के लिये ही संविधान होता है, संविधान के लिये समाज नहीं होता। जैसी आवश्यकता पड़ती है, जैसी समाज की रचना होती है, उस के मुताबिक कानून बनाया जाता है। जब हमारी सरकार ने देखा कि कोर्ट बानून आड़े आ रहा है, उस को संशोधन करना आवश्यक है तो हम ने उस को संशोधित किया। हमारे धर्म ग्रन्थों से कहा है कि ये जातियाँ और उप जातियाँ बनी रत क्योंकि मनुस्मृति और दूसरे धर्म ग्रन्थों में ऐसा कहा गया है कि इस जाति के लोगों को छूना नहीं चाहिये, तो क्या उसी तरह से आप संविधान को भी बनाना चाहते हैं। एक तरफ आप कहते हैं कि संविधान को बदला जाय, दूसरी तरफ आप का मतलब हल नहीं होता है तो आप कहते हैं कि संविधान में ऐसा नहीं होना

चाहिये। एक तरफ आप कहते हैं अदालतों के अधिकार कम किये जायें और दूसरी तरफ कहते हैं कि उन को बढाया जाय। हमारे जो कार्यक्रम हैं, जो जनता के हित के लिये बन रहे हैं उन में अगर कोई कानून आड़े आता है तो उन को हटा कर ही हम जनता का हित कर सकते हैं। हम ने देखा कि जब बैंकों का राष्ट्रीकरण किया गया तो उसके खिलाफ फैसला हुआ। जब राजाओं के प्रीवी पर्स को समाप्त किया तो हमारे खिलाफ फैसला—हुआ तो क्या ये अदालत हमारी जनता के हित के लिये थी? क्या यह उचित था कि राजा महाराजा घर में बैठे बैठे बिना किये लाखों रुपये की पेंशन लेते रहें। उन के कुत्ते और बिल्ली सरकार के खर्च पर हवाई जहाज से इंग्लैंड की यात्रा करें और हमारे यहां लोगों को खाने के लिये गौटी न मिले, पहनने को लंगोटी न मिले। यह कैसा समाजवाद है? यह कैसी समानता है? अगर सब को समान अधिकार है तो चाहे महारानी हो या एक साधारण व्यक्ति सब को बराबर के अधिकार मिलने चाहिये।”

आप को याद होगा हम ने राजाओं का प्रीवी पर्स खत्म किया, लेकिन उममें विरुद्ध न्यायालयों ने जो फैसला दिया, वह इतिहास में लिखा हुआ है, कभी मिट नहीं सकती और आप लोगों ने उस का समर्थन किया था आप लोगों ने कहा था कि राजाओं का प्रीवी पर्स समाप्त नहीं होना चाहिये। आप कहते कुछ और हैं, लेकिन आप के दिल में कुछ और है। आप को याद होगा, उम के बाद पार्लियामेंट भंग हुई, नये चुनाव हुए तब आप लोगों ने गठबन्धन किया। कैसा गठबन्धन—कहीं की ईंट कहीं का रोड़ा, भानमनी ने कुलबा जोड़ा। लेकिन जनता ने आप को कह दिया कि हम तुम को नहीं चाहते हैं, उस के बाद आप ने जनता पार्टी बनाली। समझ में नहीं आता—जब जनता ने आप को छोड़ दिया, तो फिर जनता पार्टी बनाने का आप को क्या अधिकार है?

इसी लिये संविधान में ऐसा संशोधन किया गया कि जनता के हित में जो कानून बनाये जायें, हमारी करोड़ों गरीब जनता के हित के लिये जो कानून बनाये जायें, न्यायालय उन पर अक्रुश न लगा सके। आप जानते हैं पिछले दिनों हम अपनी जनता को एक बीघा जमीन भी नहीं दे पा रहे थे, ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो गई थी कि वे अपने पैरों पर खड़े हो कर यह कहने की स्थिति में भी नहीं थे कि हम इस देश के स्वतंत्र नागरिक हैं। हम जो भी कानून बना रहे हैं उसी जनता के लिये बना रहे हैं और उस के हित के लिये अगर हम का किसी की जमीन और सम्पत्ति भी छीननी पड़े तो हमें पीछे नहीं हटना चाहिये और हम यह चाहेंगे कि ऐसे जो भी कानून बनाये वे न्यायालय की सीमा में बाहर रहें।

इस लिये जो विधेयक पेश किया गया है मैं उस का घोर विरोध करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A.
SEYID MUHAMMAD): Mr. Chair-
man, I oppose the Bill, every clause
of it. Three amendments are pro-
posed to be effected in the Constitu-
tion, first, amendment to art. 22,
second, amendment to art. 32 and
third, amendment to art 311 Amend-
ment to art 22 is to the effect that
clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7 be deleted.
Apparently, this is purported to be
done to protect civil liberties and the
interests of democracy. But when
we examine it, we will see that if
these amendments are accepted, the
opposite effect will be the result.

Let us take these clauses, but before
that I want to mention one thing
Articles 21 and 22 should be read
together. Article 21 negatively says
that nobody's liberty shall be taken
away except through procedure

[Dr. V. A. Seyid Muhammad]

established by law. To put it positively, provided by valid law a procedure is established and by that procedure liberty is taken away, that shall be sanctioned by the provisions of the Constitution. Article 22 is only an elaboration of art. 21. In this connection, I wish to recall....

SHRI DINESH JOARDER: Not preventive detention.

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD: When you spoke, I did not interrupt. I must be assumed to know about preventive detention.

You may recall that at the time the Constitution was being framed, there was great controversy whether we should import the entire due process concept in the American constitution. It was decided that we shall not. We accepted a limited concept, namely procedure established by law which as I said, has a negative as well as positive content. The negative content is that you shall not do certain things except according to the procedure established by law and the expression "law" has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to mean a valid law. So, if by a valid law a law which is otherwise valid, you wish to deny the liberty, etc. to the citizen, the qualifications and conditions mentioned in Article 22 are to be satisfied.

Certain restrictions are imposed under clauses (1) (2) (3) (4) and (5) of this Article. That is in order to protect the liberty of the people certain things cannot be done or certain things are prohibited and certain things have to be done. I may just refer to it very briefly. Now, 22(1) says that nobody shall be detained without providing him with the grounds. Article 22(2) says that everyone so detained shall be produced before the Magistrate within a specified period. Article

23(3) says "Nothing in clauses (1) and (2) shall apply. Article 22(4) and (5) are very important which give very basic rights and protection to the citizens. Clause (4) says. "No law providing for preventive detention shall authorise the detention of a person for a longer period than three months unless the condition specified therein, is fulfilled. Clause (5) says:

"When any person is detained in pursuance of an order made under any law providing for preventive detention, the authority making the order shall, as soon as may be, communicate to such person the grounds....."

So, when you take Clauses (1) (2) (3) (4) and (5) together you will find that those Clauses are intended to be for the protection of the individual even though under Article 21 the authorities are empowered to detain any person by a procedure established by a valid law. Now, this protection which is given to the citizen is purported to be taken away by this amendment. Clauses 4 and 5 are to be deleted altogether. The protection would not have been there if you take Article 21 alone. These protections are not there in article 21. So, by this amendment these protections are purported to be taken away, to which the Government cannot agree. Clauses 6 and 7 are only enabling clauses which say that the Parliament shall have power, etc to make laws. So by deleting these clauses (4) (5) (6) and (7) what they want in substance is to take away the liberty of the citizen. This position the Government cannot agree to at all. I can understand a section of the opposition wanting to destroy the liberty and the protection given to the citizen but the Government cannot be a party to it and Government cannot accept this amendment and take away the liberties and protection given by the Constitution itself to the citizen.

Two reasons have been given for this amendment. One is political motivation that is to say the constitution provisions are being abused for political reasons. This had been refuted innumerable times, the whole day yesterday, today in this House and in the other House. Wild allegations have been made. I do not wish to revert except to say that the allegations that have been made. I deny emphatically. The second reason given is that there are already sufficient protective procedural provisions in the various laws of the country which can be used. But I do not think they are sufficient and it has been found that they are not sufficient. One of them is contained in the Criminal Procedure Code. The maximum you can do is that you can get a bond executed. In individual cases, it may be possible, but to prevent large scale organised attacks against democracy you cannot use these preventive sections of C.R.P.C. like Sections 107 and 109. These are only for rounding up ordinary criminals or undesirable elements and preventing their activities.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let it not be a blanket power.

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMED: That power is not sufficient. When political movements in the sense of organised anti-democratic movements are there, Sections 107 and 109 of the Cr.P.C. would not be of avail to protect the interests of the State as well as the citizen. So, to say that there are sufficient provisions in existing laws is not correct.

Regarding article 32, the substance of the amendment proposed is that in matters where by any land legislation land is vested in the government, any order made by the executive shall not be questioned before the Supreme Court under article 32. Suppose an order is made which is detrimental to the interests of the tenants, what happens? An order

may be in favour of the tenant or against the tenant. What will happen in the case of an order made in favour of the landlord which is against the basic interests of the tenant? It is a blanket power you are giving to the executive by making the executive order final. By taking it away from the purview of the Supreme Court you are throwing the tenants to the mercy of the executive. The Government cannot agree to it.

Then I come to amendments to article 311, provisos (b) and (c) of clause (2). Clause (2) provides for an enquiry to be conducted in the case of suspension, dismissal, etc. Proviso (b) says that such an enquiry need not be conducted if the officer concerned is convinced, for reasons to be recorded, that it is impossible or impracticable to conduct such an enquiry. As I already pointed out, one amendment suggests that the executive should be supreme, but the other amendment shows that there is no confidence in the executive at all. What will you do if a man is absconding? The Cr. P.C. and the Evidence Act contain provisions covering cases where a man cannot be found or where a man is incapable of giving evidence etc. What is to be done if a person deliberately absconds? These provisions in the Cr. P.C. and Evidence Act have been there for almost a century. Similarly proviso (c) deals with a situation where the President or Governor can say that it is not necessary to conduct an enquiry, the reason being the security of the State. After all, security of the State is the ultimate test to be applied in such situations. I submit that these provisions have stood the test of examination by the Supreme Court and been found to be valid.

In these circumstances, I think the proposed amendments, particularly with regard to article 22(5) and (6), are pernicious and detrimental to

[Dr. V. A. Seyid Muhammad]

the best interests of a citizen and I oppose the amendments. With these words, I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): Mr. Chairman, I must thank the hon. Members who have participated in the debate from both sides of the House including the Minister who has tried to explain away his position. I do not know why he is not agreeable to the amendment that is proposed here in the Bill. But I must say that he has not understood the intentions behind moving this amendment. If he will kindly look into the amendment that is in section 2 of the amending Bill, there I have said that in case of alien or in case of an enemy of the country, we do not ask for any relief or any relaxation but it is only in the case of people and citizens of our country that I want this thing. The United Nations have also drawn a Chapter on Human Rights. What is the reason that a man who is a citizen of India is put under detention on the subjective reasons given by somebody who does not know him personally. How the preventive detentions are taking place? So, you kindly try to understand the reason for bringing this amendment. Some people may look into the matter in their own way, with a jaundiced eye. Why a man is deprived of his personal liberty? That is my question to which you have not replied.

In my introductory speech I have said that the situation now is worse. Whatever may be your explanation, ultimately the result is that there is no rule of law in this country. That aspect you have not replied. I do not know whether you have intentionally done so or you have deliberately avoided it.

I expect at least something from you regarding the amendment which

is there in section 3 of my amending Bill. You should have taken it very objectively. I have no grouse whether you give protection to persons of their personal property. My point is that only the land which is vested in the Government and the same land which is being distributed to the poor peasants and agricultural labourers, in that case you make it sure that the person is given some protection. You said something in your own way. I am not a lawyer and Shri Salve, the other day, has said that I am not a legal pandit. I will say humbly that your leader, Smt. Indira Gandhi is on record that, in that sense, she is not a very highly educated lady. From her commonsense, from her personal experience she speaks and she takes decisions on very serious problems. Mr. Salve should remember the same utterances of Shrimati Gandhi, when he challenges my knowledge regarding Constitution. So, I do not know how these gentlemen, who are sitting here, and pose themselves as legal luminaries, Mr. Chairman, Sir, can venture in making such a slurring remark on me, who is not a lawyer but who understands from common knowledge the impact of Constitution on common people (Interruptions).

I would have gladly withdrawn the Bill if the Government had accepted at least section 3 of my Bill which deals with the question of vested land which may be distributed to the landless people. But you have not done so. So, what will happen?

The next question is in regard to Article 311. The position there also is very funny. You say that whatever the Governor decides, is sacrosanct. Is he a super man? How can he know that the conduct of an ordinary clerk has become a matter of State security? These are pleas to do away with the services of these employees who may not be in your

good books because of their long-standing movement for the betterment of their service conditions.

Sir, I would request you kindly to see that this debate is continued on the next day, so that I may get an opportunity to come forward with other examples as to how these ordinary people, poor peasants are being cheated and how the propertied people are being given guarantee by the Constitution, whereas you do not care to consider the cases of the poor and the ordinary people.

I commend this bill and request you to continue the debate

MR CHAIRMAN There is now no motion before the House for the adjournment of the debate; and, therefore, I cannot take that into consideration at all.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: That was my submission, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was no motion. Moreover, you have to take the consent of the Speaker

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH): If you adjourn, it will have to be balloted again

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: If so, what is the fate of this amending Bill? Mr Chairman, Sir, don't give your ruling. Kindly tell me

MR CHAIRMAN The hon Member, in the course of his speech, has made a request that the discussion may be prolonged to the next day, or that the debate may be adjourned.

SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH: We have absolutely no objection to adjourn the debate on this, provided the consequences that follow from

this, according to the rules, will be taken with grace by the mover.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I agree to your proposal to adjourn.

SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH: I beg to move;

"That the further debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill be adjourned"

MR. CHAIRMAN The question is'

"That the further debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill be adjourned"

The motion was adopted.

16.34 hrs

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND FAMILY PENSION FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of sections 1, 2, etc.)

SHRI P M MEHTA (Bhavnagar) I beg to move*:

'That the Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952, be taken into consideration."

There is widespread unrest and discontent among the industrial workers of this country in regard to the shortcomings and maladministering of the present Act, viz., the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952

The workers and the trade unions have constantly made a demand for some changes so as to meet the very purpose of the Act as well as the needs of the workers under the

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri P. M. Mehta]

changing social order and new conceptions.

The House will recall, and the hon. Minister will also recall, that the Bill to amend this Act was brought forward in this House by the then Labour Minister, Shri Raghunatha Reddy, in August 1973. The amendment was then moved with the limited objective of making the provisions penal in regard to misuse of provident fund amount. If one looks at the speeches made by the hon. Members of this House during the course of the debate on that Bill, one will come to the definite conclusion that a consensus has emerged and members without exception, while supporting that Bill, expressed dissatisfaction regarding the administering of the Act and also made demand for a comprehensive Bill to amend the law more meaningfully.

Here I would like to state the impact of that amendment which was brought forward by the Labour Minister in the month of August 1973. According to the Minister the arrears recoverable from the employers at that time were of the order of Rs. 19.60 crores as on 31st March 1973. The arrears as on 30th September 1975, according to the information available to me, stand at Rs. 20.64 crores. It is interesting to note that at the end of 31st March 1972 also the arrears were of the order of Rs. 20.64 crores. In other words, the arrears as on 30th September 1975, is the same as the arrears on the 31st March 1972.

Taking this into consideration, the maladministering of the Act and the shortcomings of the Act, I have proposed some further measures, including penal provisions, in this Bill. It is a positive and constructive approach to the problems and defaults of provident fund amount by the employers. The second para of the

Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to my Bill reads as follows:

"Default in payment of provident fund contribution by the employer has become an everyday affair and the employers are tempted to utilise the provident fund amount as working capital and that too, without paying any interest and as such, more stringent penal provisions for default in payment including charging of interest, damages, penalty and punishment of fine and imprisonment, and association of responsible trade unions for more effective implementation of the Act is sought to be achieved by this Bill."

I have also proposed refund of the total accumulation together with interest on the completion of the stipulated period, say 20 years. This will create confidence and provide an incentive to the workers to save more and more and invest with Government.

Further, I have suggested a higher rate of contribution and a higher rate of interest on the provident fund accumulation. As you know, the rupee has to great extent lost its value and the eroding process is constantly going on. If the present position continues, then at the fag end of his active service, the worker will be very much adversely affected. He has to fulfil his social obligations like children's marriages, college education, etc. in his fifties. So, if the total accumulation is repaid after the expiry of 20 years of service, that will be very useful to him for discharging his family commitments and social obligations in a better way. Similarly, a higher rate of contribution and higher rate of interest will ensure more savings by the worker and more contribution by the employer, and consequently a larger total amount at the end of the stipulated period. This will be a very good incentive to the workers with small incomes to save regularly in their provident fund account.

The cumulative effect of all these measures will be that Government will be able to contain inflation and its evil effects. This has also been made clear in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Another important feature of the Bill is that it will bring all establishments with ten or more workers within its purview. Similarly, I propose a comprehensive substitute definition which covers all types of remuneration in one definition, that is, 'return of the labour put by the workers in money value'. All this will be covered under one definition. So, it is a comprehensive definition of the term 'wages'.

Too much is said about the participation of the workers in management. Here, I propose to appoint honorary office-bearers of the trade union as inspectors of this Act. This will give a vigilant supervision which will expedite the whole process of working and the functioning of the Act. It will prevent corruption and mal-practice on the part of the authorities. Therefore, I have proposed to appoint honorary office-bearers of the trade union as honorary inspectors. This is a new feature. If the Government accepts it, then it will smoothen the administrative functions under this Act.

You are aware of the situation that the recession has started. Thousands of workers are laid-off. 13 textile mills have been closed down. This news did not come out because there is a censorship, and the Government, at present, does not want to give this news to the people. Therefore, nobody knows whether 13 textile mills have been closed down. There is a proposal for taking over the closed units by the State Governments, but the Government of India is not paying any heed to this problem. I will give you one example. There is one mill called Priya Laxmi Mill of Baroda.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR
 (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): It is the State Government which wanted to take them over.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Certainly. You take them and hand them over to the State Government. The question is who will take them over? They could be taken over only under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act and that could be operated only by the Government of India; that is under the jurisdiction of the Government of India. Therefore, I think the State Government has proposed about it. If you take them under the ID&RA and hand them over to the State Government of Gujarat, they are prepared to run those units, because they are economically viable units.

In my home town, there is a factory called Bhavnagar Vegetable Products which has been closed down. This plant is producing vegetable oil. It has got capacity of 100 tonnes a day. It is a big factory.

They have also got a solvent extraction plant with a capacity of 100 tonnes a day. About a thousand workers were working in that plant. That has now been closed due to trade losses and other things. The Gujarat Government has also proposed to take over that unit and hand it over to the State Government. But nothing has been done so far by the Government of India.

Why I refer to these things is that all this creates problems for the workers. They are laid off. They are not getting the wages; they are not getting their provident fund dues. It creates untold suffering for the workers who are thrown out of employment as a result of the closure of the units.

In the same way, there is a recession in the automobile industry. In jute

[Shri P. M. Mehta]

mills, thousands of workers have been laid off. So is the case with engineering industry. The units run by the National Textile Corporation are also facing the crisis and they are on the verge of closure. This is a very serious situation.

The people of this country are not enabled to know the real economic situation. The economy is not reviving as the Government claims. On the contrary, it is on the way of crippling. Therefore, in such a situation, the Government should come forward with a progressive piece of legislation. Let them provide better social security under these circumstances. This is a social security legislation. Here, I have proposed a few things, to enhance the rate of provident fund, to enhance the rate of interest, to refund the provident fund dues at the expiry of a stipulated period, say, 20 years and to provide stringent measures for default. Today, the employers are utilising this amount as the working capital without paying any interest.

I have got the figures also. In the year 1972, at the end of 31st March, the arrears were of the order of Rs 20 crores and odd. At the end of 30th September, 1975, it is Rs. 20.64 crores. It has increased by a few lakhs of rupees. It has not decreased. So, it obviously requires a re-thinking in all these matters, stringent penal provisions, so that the employer is not tempted for any default.

We must admit that it is only the poor working class who is regularly contributing to the provident fund account and, by doing that, they are making small savings from their small incomes. If this is increased, as I stated earlier, it will also help the inflation containing process and its evil effects which hit the workers and poor classes.

I have also proposed the enlargement of the purview and covering of the uncovered sectors in this Act. As I was going through the previous debates on the last Amendment Act, I saw that the Labour Minister had expressed a desire to come forward with a comprehensive Bill. In the light of this, I hope the Government will accept this amendment to the Act. With these words I commend my motion to the Hon. House.

MR CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952, be taken into consideration."

श्री राज नारायण शर्मा (धनबाद) :
सभापति जी, यह एम्प्लॉईज प्रोवीडेंट फंड और फैमिली पेंशन फंड बिल, 1974 जिसे अभी माननीय प्रमन्न भाई मेहता ने उपस्थित किया है यह जैसा कि हम के उद्देश्यों में लिखा हुआ है, बहुत ही अच्छे उद्देश्यों को रख कर के हम सदन के सामने लाया गया है। इस बिल के साथ साथ, अगर सरकार इसे कबूल कर ले, कोल्माइन्स प्रोवीडेंट फंड वाले बिल को भी साथ साथ अमल करती तो बहुत ही उत्तम होना। जैसा कि अभी आप के सामने रखा गया 1973 में जब पनाल्टी के प्रीवेंशन को कड़ा बनाया जा रहा था उसी समय सदन के हर कोने में हम तरह की भांग घाई थी और यह सारे पहलू जो आज हम बिल में हैं इन सारे पहलुओं के ऊपर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया था और सरकार ने भी हम सदन में कहा था कि अभी जल्दबाजी में हम सब्सट प्रीवेंशन करने का रहे है केवल पनाल्टी का या सजा देने का, लेकिन एक कामप्रोहिबिटिव बिल सदन के सामने उपस्थित करेंगे और उपस्थित कर के उस को पास करावेंगे। मुझे यह नहीं अभी जो बिल उपस्थित

हुआ है उस के ऊपर सरकार का क्या खर्च होगा, लेकिन यह बिल जो उपस्थित हुआ है सरकार के वायदों को बहुत कुछ अपने में इनकॉर्पोरेट करता है। मेरी समझ में इस में और भी इनकॉर्पोरेट करने की जरूरत है या दूसरे बिन्दु को भी लाने की जरूरत है। लेकिन उस में से बहुत अंशों को यह बिल इनकॉर्पोरेट करता है। आप जैसा देखेंगे कि जो 'नाल्डी' का प्रोवीजन 1973 की अगस्त में किया गया था उस प्रोवीजन के दावजूद भी जो बकाया था वह रकम घटी नहीं। और वह प्रोवीजन दो बिलों में किया गया था—कोलमाइन्स प्रोविडेंट फंड और एम्प्लॉईज प्रोविडेंट फंड। यहां तो खेरियत है कि बकाया रकम ज्यादा नहीं बढ़ी, केवल 20 करोड़ 62 लाख से 20 करोड़ 64 लाख हो गई, दो, ढाई साल में, बल्कि कहिए ढाई साल में। लेकिन वहां पर तो उस समय 11 करोड़ था जो अब लगभग 20, 22 करोड़ हो गया है। इस समय एम्प्लॉईज प्रोविडेंट फंड के अन्दर लगभग 65 लाख वर्कर्स कवर्ड हैं और कोलमाइन्स प्रोविडेंट फंड में तो केवल 5 लाख वर्कर्स हैं। 5 लाख रेटायर्ड्स का लगभग 20 करोड़ के उपर एरियर हो गया है और यहां तो 65 लाख रेटायर्ड्स की लगभग वहां रकम है यानी लगभग 20 करोड़ रुपये के और इस 20 करोड़ में से भी 10 करोड़ रुपये की ऐसी रकम है जो एक ही उद्योग टैक्समाइल्स की है और टैक्समाइल्स उद्योग में भी अधिकतर वे टैक्समाइल्स वाले हैं जो अपने आप को सिक डेवेलपर किये हैं और सिक मिलों की हैमियत से आते वे सरकार के कब्जे में हैं। मैं तो यह चाहूंगा कि सरकार उन को सिकनेस दूर कर के जल्दी से उल्डी इस रकम को रियेलाइज करने का प्रावधान करे तो यह अति-उत्तम होगा।

17.00 hrs.

सभापति महोदय, इस में एक प्रावधान यह भी किया गया है कि अभी जो वर्तमान कन्ट्रीब्यूशन का दर है सवा छः परसेन्ट या 8 परसेन्ट, उस को बढ़ा कर 10 परसेन्ट कर दिया जाए। इस तरह की मिफारिश नेगटल कौन्सिल आफ लेबर को भी है। जिस समय उन ने यह मिफारिश की थी, तो बहुत छात्रवीन की थी और जो त्रिदलीय समिति थी, उस समिति ने यह मिफारिश की थी कि प्रोविडेंट फंड के कम से कम कन्ट्रीब्यूशन की दर को बढ़ा कर 10 प्रतिशत कर दिया जाए और उन्होंने यह भी मिफारिश की थी कि जिस कारखाने में 10 से अधिक आदमी हों, उन के ऊपर इस को लागू किया जाए। इस बिल में भी इस तरह का प्रावधान किया गया है। पेंसेंट्री वाले प्रावधान को कहां तक लागू किया गया है, मुझे पता नहीं क्योंकि अगर लागू किया गया होता तो ये रुपये अभी तक वसूल हो गये होते। एम्प्लॉईज प्रोविडेंट फंड वाले बेट, वाच एण्ड सी का तरीका अख्तियार किये हुए हैं। इस को पास किये हुए दो साल का वक्त हो चुका है लेकिन अभी तक बेट, वाच एण्ड सी चलता है या उस दिशा में कोई कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं, इस का मुझे पता नहीं है। लेकिन मैं यह पता हूं कि कम से कम कोलमाइन्स में तो बिल्कुल ही कदम नहीं उठाया गया है और लोगों को चुप्चाप छूट दे दी गई है क्योंकि अब कोलमाइन्स में भी मर देन 99 प्वाइन्ट समथिंग जो प्रोविडेंट फंड हैं, वे सारे पब्लिक सेक्टर में हो गये हैं और वे राश्वह नहीं करते हैं खास तौर से लेबर डिपार्टमेंट के किस भी आफिसर को, किस भी पदाधिकारी को चाहे वह डाइरेक्टर-जनरल, माइंस सेफ्टी का ही, रीजनल लेबर कमिशनर का हो

[श्री राजनारायण शर्मा]

या कोन-भाइत प्रोविडेंट फंड आयनाइजेशन का हो। ये सारे प्रायोजनस प्राज कोल इंडस्ट्री के एम्प्लायर्स के सामने हेल्प्सेस स्पेक्टेटर्स बन कर रह गये हैं और कुछ कर नहीं पाते हैं। तो मेरा ऐसा क्याल है कि सक्ती का जो यह प्रोजेक्शन है, उस को सक्ती से लागू करना चाहिए और सरकार को चाहिए कि उस के हाथों को मजबूत करे।

इस में यह भी प्रावधान है कि कम से कम इन्टरेस्ट 9 परसेंट दिया जाए। सभापति जी, अभी अगर पोस्ट आफिस के फिक्स्ड डिपॉजिट में रुपया जमा करते हैं तो 10 परसेंट इन्टरेस्ट दिया जाता है और अगर बैंक में कोई लोन लेता है, इट इन एन गुड एन बैर मनी, तो वह भी 19, 20 परसेंट की बात करने हैं। यह जो तो परसेंट का सुझाव है यह भी कम है। कारण यह है कि अभी कम्पलमरी डिपॉजिट स्कीम जो आपने चालू की है उस में बारह परसेंट इन्टरेस्ट प्राविडेंट फंड की रकम पर देने की बात सरकार ने कही है। वही बारह परसेंट यहाँ पर भी प्राविडेंट फंड की रकम पर क्यों नहीं दिया जा सकता है

एक्युमुलेशन का पीरियड जो है, क्वालिफाइंग पीरियड जो है जिन में जो इम्प्लायर का जेयर लिया जा सकता है वह भी बहुत लम्बा है। बकाया रकम नेफ्त हो गयी है एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव चार्जिज के भलावा और वह उनके काम में नहीं आती है। उस पीरियड को भी घटा कर कम किया जाना चाहिए। यहाँ तो बीस बरस है, वहाँ पंद्रह बरस है। इसको घटा करके पाँच सात बरस कर देना चाहिए। इस अवधि के बाद वे एम्प्लायर का जेयर पाने के हकदार हो

जाने चाहिए। यह प्रावधान इस बिल में नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस बिल को कबूल करे तो इस प्रावधान को भी अपनी तरफ से एमेंडमेंट के तौर पर रख कर और—जब करके कबूल करे।

जहाँ तक धानरेरी इन्स्पेक्शन का इस में प्रावधान है, आप आज तो ज्वॉयंट मैनेजमेंट काउंसिलें बना रहे हैं पार्टिसिपेशन ग्राफ वर्कर्स इन मैनेजमेंट वाले सिद्धान्त को हम लोग बहुत पहले ही कबूल कर चुके हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह का प्रावधान भी होना चाहिए कि यूनियन के पदाधिकारी इनके प्राविडेंट फंड के एकाउंट को इम्पेवट कर सकें और उसी प्रावोर्टि के साथ कर सकें जिससे कि प्राविडेंट फंड इम्पेवट करने हैं। साथ ही इनको यह भी छूट रहे कि जैसे प्राविडेंट फंड इम्पेवट उनको प्रासीक्यूट कर सकते हैं इनको भी इस तरह का राइट प्रासीक्यूट करने का रहे। इस तरह के मजबूत प्रावधान होने से जो आज डेफाल्ट होने हैं और ऐसी एरियर जमा हो जाते हैं व नहीं होंगे और उनको पूरा छूट होगी कि जब चाहें इस कानून के अन्दर उनको कठपुटे में खड़ा कर सकते हैं और उनके खिलाफ प्रासीक्यूशन लाच कर सकते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि प्रासीक्यूशन वा प्राविजन भी और ज्यादा स्ट्रिजेंट होना चाहिए। उन पर फाइन होना चाहिए। उनसे इन्टरेस्ट नहीं बल्कि जैसे बेंचिज एक्ट के अन्दर बेंचिज को जिस तरह से रिमलाइज आप करते हैं इस को भी पार्ट ग्राफ बेंचिज समझ कर बेंचिज एक्ट को इसके ऊपर भी लागू प्राधिकार करना चाहिए और साथ ही साथ पेंनेन्टी का प्राविजन होना चाहिए।

बिल के मुद्दे का मैं समर्थन करता हूँ और बाबू कहता हूँ कि अगर सरकार का यह कमिटेमेंट है पहले का तो सरकार को चाहिए कि अगर इस बिल का प्राकृष ठीक न हो तो दूसरा बिल वह प्राकृष को ठीक करके तुरन्त सदन के सामने लाए और उसको पास करवाए।

श्री श्रीहृष्यभद्र इन्स्टाल (बैरकपुर) : मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ। साथ ही जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है उसका भी समर्थन करता हूँ। उनकी जो आर्गुमेंट्स हैं वे भी ठीक हैं। मैं दो तीन बातें खास तौर से कहना चाहता हूँ।

दो बड़ाई साल हुए आपने पनियमेंट देने का, सजाए देने का उनको जो प्राविडेंट फंड का पैसा न दें बिल आपने पास करवाया था। इस बिल के पास होने के बाद हमने देखा कि वही पुरानी चाल है। यह जो प्राविडेंट फंड डिपार्टमेंट है उसी तरह से यह चल रहा है जैसे पहले चलता था। गजिनल कमिशनर से जब हमने पूछा कि क्या बात है कि जब यह कानून बन चुका है आप उनको सजाए नहीं दिलाते हैं, जो इम्प्लायर डिफाल्ट करते हैं उनको सजाए क्यों नहीं दिलाते हैं तो वे कहते हैं कि हमारे पास तो यह पावर नहीं है, हमारे पास तो यही पावर है कि हम पिट्टी लिख दें और उसका जवाब मंगा लें। इससे जों एक्वाटेज है वह मालिक लोगों ने ही उठाया है। आज बर्कर का कंटीब्यूशन वह हर महीने काट लेते हैं। अपना पैसा और बर्करों का पैसा जमा कर के वह अपने कारोबार में लगाते हैं। यहाँ तक कि बर्करों को यह नहीं मालूम होता है कि हमारा पैसा कहाँ जा रहा है। मैं एक मिसाल देता हूँ। बंगाल में मेरी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी में सरखा जूट मिल है। उसने 29 लाख रुपया प्राविडेंट फंड का

मारा है, वह रकम जमा ही नहीं की। जब प्राविडेंट कमिशनर द्वारा पूछा गया कि क्या बात है, तो कहा कि हमारा हिसाब नहीं हुआ है। मैंने यहाँ कंसल्टेटिव कमेटी में यह सवाल उठाया, तब उसकी इन्क्वायरी हुई और 6, 7 महीने के बाद पता लगा कि 29 लाख रुपये का गवन किया गया। प्राविडेंट का ट्रस्टी बोर्ड मालिक के हाथ में है। मालिक बर्करों से कहता है कि हमने पैसा मारा है, तुम्हें जो करना है कर लो। उसी मालिक ने जूट कापॉरेशन के जूट को भी बेच दिया जो कि गोदाम में जमा था और वह सारा पैसा खा गया। उसने बर्करों की एक महीने की बेज भी नहीं दी और कारखाने को लाक-आउट कर दिया है। इस बात को 8, 7 महीने से ज्यादा हो रहे हैं। मैंने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को बहुत चिट्ठियाँ लिखी हैं, लेकिन अभी तक इस मसले का कोई सौल्यूशन नहीं हुआ है। मेरे कहने पर अब उसको प्रासीक्यूट किया गया तो उसने अदालत में कहा कि मैं इन्स्टाल-मेंट में रुपया दे दूँगा और कोर्ट ने इस बात को मंजूर कर लिया। उसने दो इन्स्टाल-मेंट 75 हजार रुपये के दिये। जब हमने पूछा कि बाद में क्या होगा तो उसने कहा कि बाद में देखा जायेगा। उसने यह भी कहा कि तुम कोर्ट में गये, अब मैं देखूँगा कि तुम कैसे पैसा लोगे।

एक नया फाइव स्टार होटल खुला है जिसका नाम रीज होटल है। उसने प्राविडेंट फंड काटा, मगर पैसा जमा नहीं किया। उसने न अपना पैसा जमा किया और न बर्करों का कंटीब्यूशन। उसके बाद वह लाक-आउट कर दिया। जब बर्करों ने इस बारे में आवाज उठाई तो प्राविडेंट फंड कमिशनर ने कहा कि पैसा ही जमा नहीं हुआ है, उसका नाम लिस्टेड ही नहीं हुआ है।

[श्री मोहम्मद इस्माइल]

क्योंकि प्राविडेंट कमिशनर की तरफ से सख्त कार्यवाही नहीं की जाती है, इसलिए डिफाल्ट करने के लिये मालिकों की हिम्मत बढ़ती है। अभी तक एक भी आदमी को एम्प्लोयी सजा नहीं दी गई है जिससे एक मिसाल कायम हो। लेबर मिनिस्ट्री भी वीले तौर पर काम कर रही है। वर्कर्स का पैसा उसी तरह बरबाद हो रहा है और उनको लूटा जा रहा है। डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से टाइमली ऐक्शन नहीं लिया जाता है। पहले यह सिस्टम था कि प्राविडेंट फंड का हिसाब वर्कर्स को दिया जाता था और उन्हें स्लिप मिलती थी। अब 5, 6 महीने के बाद भी वर्कर नहीं जानते हैं कि उनका पैसा जमा किया गया है या नहीं और अगर जमा किया गया है तो कितना। अगर वर्कर अपने प्राविडेंट फंड के बारे में पूछते हैं तो उनको कहा जाता है कि डिपार्टमेंट में जाकर पूछिये। अगर वह डिपार्टमेंट में जाते हैं तो उनको कहा जाता है कि वह चिट्ठी लिखें। वर्कर्स भ्रष्टों में रहते हैं कि उनका पैसा जमा हुआ है या नहीं और इस तरह उनका पैसा मारा जाना है। वर्कर्स को दो-तीन महीने में ही मालूम होना चाहिये कि उनका पैसा जमा हुआ है या नहीं और अगर जमा हुआ है तो कितना।

आज-कल मालिक प्राविडेंट फंड का पैसा ले लेते हैं, एक-दो सौ से भी कई ले लेते हैं और फिर लाक-आउट या क्लोजर कर देते हैं। कहते हैं कि पैसा नहीं है। श्रम प्रोसीजर की वजह से वर्कर्स को पैसा नहीं मिलता है।

इंडिया फंड नाम की कम्पनी को गवर्न-मेंट ने टेक-ओवर कर लिया। मालिक ने प्राविडेंट फंड का पैसा जमा नहीं किया था।

टेक-ओवर करने के बाद गवर्नमेंट ने कहा कि चूंकि मालिक ने पैसा नहीं दिया, इसलिए वह तो खत्म—मालिक खा गया, तो खा गया, जब से हम ने टेक-ओवर किया है, तब से देखेंगे। इस तरह अभी तक वर्कर्स का पैसा हासिल नहीं हुआ है। बाखिर उन लोगों का पैसा कौन दिलवायेगा? इस तरह हजारों वर्कर्स का पैसा मारा गया है। आज इस इम तरह की घाबली हो रही है।

इस्पेक्टर मालिक क घर जा कर मैनेजर से मिलते हैं। मैनेजर उन को कुछ पैसा दे देता है और वे चुचचाप चले जाते हैं। हम ने कई बार चिट्ठी लिखी कि इस्पेक्टर हमारी प्रेजेंस में जाये। हम ने यूनियन के वर्कर्स से कहा कि वे खड़े रहें, ताकि उन की मौजूदगी में इस्पेक्टर बात करे। तब मालिक इस्पेक्टर को टेलीफोन कर देता है कि वर्कर्स को मालूम हो गया है, चार पांच दिन के बाद आना। इस्पेक्टर चार पांच दिन के बाद जाता है, और फिर यह रिपोर्ट दे देता है कि मालिक हिसाब भेज देगा।

अब्ररत इस बात की है कि इस्पेक्टर हर एक फैक्टरी में जाये। बहुत से मालिक रजिस्टर दिखाने से इन्कार कर देते हैं। इस्पेक्टर बहुत डरे हुए हैं। अगर रिजनल कमिशनर से शिकायत की जाती है, तो वह मालिक को फार्मली लिख देता है कि वह रिपोर्ट सबमिट करे कि कितने आदमी हैं, कांट्रीब्यूशन दिया है या नहीं, वगैरह। इस तरह एक लम्बा प्रोसीजर चलता है। इन्वेस्टिगेशन का कोई इन्तजाम नहीं है। जैसा कि सजेक्शन दिया गया है, वर्कर्स के जो करोड़ों रुपये जमा हैं, उन का सूद उन को देना चाहिए।

जो डिफाल्टर हैं, उन को सजा दी जाये। जो कारखाने लाक-आउट हो गये हैं, उन को सर्टिफिकेट दिया जाये, ताकि उन की प्रापर्टी

को बैंक कर पैसा बसूल किया जा सके। भाव-कल सर्टिफिकेट का प्रोसीजर बहुत लम्बा है। वह दो तीन वर्ष तक चलता है—पहले एनक्वायरी होगी, फिर सर्टिफिकेट दिया जायेगा और तब माल की कुर्की कर के पैसा बसूल किया जायेगा। बलीजर हो या लाक-आउट हो, वर्करी के पैसे की गारंटी होनी चाहिए। इस बिल में इस बारे में कोई प्राविजन नहीं रखा गया है। ऐसा प्राविजन रखना चाहिए।

ट्रेड यूनियनों को रिप्रेजेंटेशन देना तो दूर उन की चिट्ठियों का जवाब तक नहीं दिया जाता है। तब पार्लियामेंट के मੈम्बरो को लिखना पड़ता है। तब कही जवाब आता है। ट्रेड यूनियनों का रिप्रेजेंटेशन जरूर होना चाहिए।

कोलमाइन्ड प्राविडेंट फंड में शुरू से ही सब में ज्यादा घाटली रही है। इस बारे में एक काम्प्रिहेंसिव बिल लाया जाना चाहिए, ताकि प्राविडेंट फंड का सारा इन्शुरांस एक तरीके से किया जा सके और वर्कर्स के रैसे का प्रोटेक्शन हो। 20-पायंट प्रोग्राम की बहुत चर्चा की जाती है, लेकिन हम ने देखा है कि इमर्जेंसी के बाद भी वही रफ्तार वेढ़गी सी, जो पहले थी, वह अब भी है। तो इस को कम से कम मंत्री महोदय को बदलना चाहिए। जो वर्कर्स के पैसे जमा हैं वह उन को दिलाने के उपाय किए जाने चाहिए। इन शब्दों के साथ यह जो बिल है इस का मैं समर्थन करता हूँ और आशा है कि मंत्री महोदय भी इसे मानेंगे।

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to support the Bill which my friend Mr. Prasannabhai Mehta has brought before the House today.

In this Private Members' time, we get an opportunity of focussing the

attention of the House and through the House of the country, on some of the pressing problems facing the motion and it further gives us an opportunity of looking at the problems from a non-partisan angle.

After all, there are many areas in our national life which need not be looked at from any partisan angle or party-political attitude. One must look at them as national problems. Therefore, I welcome this opportunity of participating in this Debate.

I wish to congratulate my friend Mr. Prasannabhai Mehta for bringing this legislation.

The Minister of Labour himself is also known for his progressive outlook and socialistic ideas if I may say so, but I wonder whether he will be honest enough to tell us in regard to the implementation of some of those ideas and convictions into actual practice.

Sir, in this country and, I think, in many other countries of the world, Labour as such have had not a very fair and honest and honourable treatment, not only at the hands of the governments, but, if I may say so, also, at the hands of the public at large. It is from these angles also, Sir, that I feel that a move like the one Mr. Prasannabhai Mehta has brought here, deserves our congratulations and our welcome.

Sir, if you look at the provisions of the Bill, you will find that in some respects it goes very much ahead in the right directions, and perhaps the Minister is in a better position than I to tell us that that perhaps in some other respects, although, it may theoretically seem to go in the right directions; there may be some difficulties, administrative or otherwise. The Minister will be able to tell us as to what they are. Therefore, I do not want to

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

go into the details. But what I wish to suggest is that a time has come in our country when a comprehensive legislation (dealing with various aspects of good industrial relations and good industrial democracy) should be presented to this House and we are enabled to have an opportunity to discuss them and an opportunity to pass them as early as possible. I know that the Minister has been promising us again and again that that Bill is on the anvil and it is coming. But I do not know when this consideration will be over and when the actual legislation will come before the House, covering various aspects, in a comprehensive way.

Sir, the previous speakers who took part in the Debate on this Bill told us how workers' ignorance, illiteracy and their general overall backwardness (a kind of backwardness which is built in, in the general social ethos of our country) have been exploited by the employers. And, Sir, what is worse, and what makes me very pained is this further fact that the Governments—I am not talking of this Government or that Government, Government of this party or that party, but Governments in general, both State Governments and our Federal Government—do not seem to have taken a realistic, radical, urgent view of the matter, to solve some of these problems, from the point of view of doing justice to the workers and wage-earners in this country.

The attitude still is, if I may say so, employer-minded rather than employees-minded.

I remember the late Prof. Lessor Harold Laski, in one of his aphorisms or maxims having said that 'Men who live differently think differently.'

Until and unless people who live as employees and people who live as

wage-earners—by and large a class of exploited people, harassed people, of this category—go into the various cadres and establishments, fight through their representatives in Legislative Assemblies and Parliament, fight for their causes there, to pressurise the Governments of the day, to bring in the necessary legislations, Sir, I am afraid, we shall not have done much in regard to the amelioration of the conditions of workers.

Therefore, the question at root is how to hit at the attitude or mentality or approach of the employers. There are so many malpractices; not only the provident fund is being allowed to be accumulated but the workers also do not get those amounts. And before the worker gets that amount, several factories and industrial units are closed down! In the meantime, the employers have already eaten up the legitimate share of the contribution of the workers.

Sir, the working of the Provident Fund Commissioner's Offices in our country is far from satisfactory. The accumulation is there; the arrears are there and the workers do not get their rightfully saved moneys from the employers or from the Provident Fund commissioners when they need them especially in terms of—I would not say merely in terms of marriage or social festivities but in terms of education, in terms of health and medical care of the members of their families.

So, Sir, I would suggest that if the idea of social security as Lord Beveridge put it in England years ago almost at the end of the Second World War that everybody should be secured and ensured from the cradle to the grave is to be put into practice, if not from the cradle, at least from the adult age till his age of retirement, then let our employers and workers be properly secured and looked after in terms of some of these benefits.

I do wish to tell the Minister that he must bring forward some kind of legislation covering not only this particular field but also all such relevant fields of labour and industrial relations in a comprehensive way so that we do not have to come again and again through such piecemeal legislation. Take, for example, the question of repayment of provident fund. Why should the worker not be entitled to receive his amount back after the expiry of, say 20 years? Why should he still look at the amount but not get it when he needs it, especially after he has retired or when he is about to retire? That is one aspect. The other aspect is this. My friend Shri Mehta just now referred to it. I would like to repeat that in our State there are some industrial units, such as Bhavnagar Vegetable Products, Bhavnagar and the textile mill like the Priya Lakshmi Mills, Baroda, and they are sick and closed down; why should not Central Government take the necessary steps to take these over and hand them back to Gujarat Government? I understand that Gujarat Government has already told the Centre that they are ready to take the responsibility. Then, where is the hitch? Where is the obstacle?

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: They have already forwarded the proposal.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Therefore, I am saying that if this is done, why not the Central Government take over the sick units? The problem is that the workers suffer further because they are not only out of job when the mills are closed down but even the arrears due to them during the time when the units were working, are also not made available to the workers.

Therefore, I feel that instead of letting this bad blood, bitterness to grow between the employer and the employees, Government should come forward and take immediate steps. I say

so because I come from Ahmedabad, one of the wellknown textile centres where workers live not only in thousands but in lakhs in Ahmedabad, and surrounding areas, and indeed all over Gujarat, in factories, industrial localities and urban agglomerations—and I know that they are in a predicament with all the problems of harassments, hardships and humiliation. Here, Sir, I say that Shri Prasannabhai's Bill is in the direction of removing some of these hardships and encouraging them—the labour—to save more and encouraging the Government to take over the responsibilities to see that the employers behave. If that is so, I hope the Labour Minister, progressive as he is, will take a pragmatic, enlightened and correct view in the matter and act quickly and swiftly so that such a legislation instead of coming from the initiative of a private Member may become part and parcel of the government's own initiative in regard to a comprehensive industrial Bill.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat): Sir, I support this amending Bill proposed by Mr Mehta. Sir, he has simply tried to strengthen the already amended act that has been passed by this House. He has tried to plug certain loopholes and tried to extend the scope and thereby tried to strengthen it.

Sir, as most of the points have been covered by the previous speakers, I will say only a few words. If the coverage is enlarged from twenty to ten that would mean that the Government which is in need of small savings the purpose of small savings would be served to some extent. Secondly, if the total emoluments of a worker are computed for the contribution then, Sir, again small savings increase. In the Fifth Five Year Plan report we have seen how the provident fund amount is taken into consideration as part of the small savings in the interest of developmental plan. Therefore, the purpose will be served

[Dr. Ranen Sen]

if the coverage is widened. Then not only a large number of workers will get benefitted but also some more amount will get accumulated in the provident fund if the contribution rate is increased and/or if the total emoluments are taken into consideration for the payment of provident fund. Therefore, from this point of view it is important not only for the working class but also for the nation because the country will get a large amount of money which is needed for national development.

Secondly, when the compulsory deposit scheme was introduced then it was said on behalf of the Government that the workers will—if more money is available to them—spend it and that will create inflation whereas if the workers are made to contribute in the compulsory deposit scheme then they will also get certain amount of interest, say 11 per cent or 12 per cent, and that in the long run will help the workers. Though the trade unions did not like that argument still, Sir, being a trade unionist yourself you will realise that if that particular argument is applied here then actually thereby the inflation will be curbed to some extent. If by deducting a portion of increased C.A. and wage in the CDS inflation can be curbed then also this way the inflation can be curbed to some extent. I am giving the same argument which the Government has given so far.

Then my next point is that even after two and a half years of the amending Act the whole administration of provident fund has not been geared up to meet the exigencies of the situation. I was not aware of the arrears of money but both Mr. Sharma and Mr. Mehta said that the arrears have increased and not decreased. It is for the Minister to refute or accept that the whole provident fund administration has flopped. Sir, the purpose

of the amending Bill which was passed in the middle of 1973 has been frustrated by the machinations of the employers with the connivance of the provident fund authorities. I know there are certain organisations which have gone against the interests of the workers. Mr. Ismail is not here.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is there.

DR. RANEN SEN: Your organisation of so-called employees is a vehicle of corruption. They are part and parcel of that corrupt administration.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Not in Bengal.

DR. RANEN SEN: Bengal is not something above heaven. Now, what about Bengal!

I come from Bengal. I know how those fellows are behaving. Therefore, the whole thing should be geared up and tightened up. How is it that the arrears are increasing? Shri Sharma said that it is increasing. At least, it is static. It is Rs. 20 crores and something. Now it is high time Government took special care to see that the arrears are liquidated and the property of the employers who are responsible for it should be attached. Not only should penal measures be taken, not only should they be jailed, but if they say 'We do not have money', they should not only go to jail but their property also must be attached. It is the poor workers' money.

At the same time, I must say, going through the Bill hurriedly, that one point is not included in it, a point which is also very important. Provident fund is contributory. That means the workers pay and the employers pay. When the earlier Bill that was passed here was under discussion, I had made the argument: 'for defaulting in the workers' contribution, you have introduced certain penal measures, but

if the employers' contribution is not paid by them, what happen?' It is the bounden duty of the employer to pay his contribution. Shri Raghunatha Reddy has gone a long way at least to do this, that if the employer eats up the workers' contribution, he is hauled up as a criminal offender. At the same time, it is a contributory fund, the employer has to contribute his share. This point should be kept in mind. I am afraid this is not quite clear in the amending Bill Shri Mehta has brought forward. I strongly feel that now 's the time when these two things should be equally dealt with.

Here I would quote—not verbally—what the Prime Minister said when she spoke before the National Apex Body. You were there, I was there and Shri Raghunatha Reddy was there. She said that now the employers could not take shelter behind the fact of there being a little financial difficulty facing them, 'for years before you have minted millions'. Whether she used the words 'minted millions' or not, I do not exactly remember, but she said 'You have earned profit, you have earned money, but at the first touch of a little industrial difficulty, you close down your factory and refuse to pay the workers their wages for six months or so'. She very clearly said this, and the employers were in discomfiture. I quite remember it, though I cannot quote, the exact words she used. So now is the time to attend to this aspect. I fully support what is said by Mr. Mohammed Ismail in this respect. There is lay-off, closure or lock-out and in the bargain, the workers' money, everything, vanishes into thin air. Government should take very strong measures to prevent this.

One of the steps to be taken should be to see that corruption does not exist, to see that the workers' money and the employers' money is not eaten up by the employers. For this, in the administration of the Fund, workers' participation is very necessary. This

should not remain a slogan or phrase, but should be made a reality. Naturally all the workers cannot participate, their representative unions should participate.

I do not want to inflict a long speech. I support this Bill. Before I sit down, I would say this to the hon Minister. If he agrees with the spirit of the Bill, he should take a constructive stand. There may be scope for improvements here and there. He should not take a stand on ceremony and say 'Well, this has come from a member of the Opposition, I will think it over'. Without taking that stand, he should take a very constructive stand. As Shri Mavalankar said, there are some common areas of agreement. Let us stand on that and see how far we can go ahead.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not have much time to speak on this Bill. But I support the spirit of the Bill. I must congratulate the Minister and the Office of the Provident Fund for the efficient way in which they are clearing the arrears since emergency. We find that no such complaints are coming from the union leaders like Dr. Ranen Sen. I find that there is all round progress and the corrupt practices among the employees are not there. Of course, here and there they have been encouraged by some elements. But since the emergency we find that there is a big change and I believe in West Bengal alone where there was a large number of arrears, there is a big change. Here the arrears cleared during the period of emergency are more than 150 per cent compared to the previous year. During the previous year about one lakh arrears were cleared but during this year about 2.5 lakhs have been cleared. So, there is a considerable change in this organisation. I am very proud to say—I am the President of the Kerala Unit of this organisa-

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

tion—that there is no complaint received in the Kerala branch. That means it is very efficiently functioning.

Here I want to mention one lacuna. Even for a small matter the Provident Fund Commissioner has to go to the Ministry for clearance. Sir, this Organisation is an autonomous body constituted under an act of Parliament. Some powers may be vested with the Commissioner so that he can dispose of certain cases at his level. Otherwise what happens is that he has to go to the Ministry even for a small matter. If more powers are given to the Commissioner, this organisation can work more efficiently.

Sir, if you see the Bill, you will find that it is for the benefit of the workers and the family members of the employees. Now, in the Bonus Act itself we have reduced the number of persons employed in a factory to 10. What is the sanctity attached to this number? Of course, by reducing it to 10 it will cover a large number of workers. Likewise as recommended in the Bonus Act, here also it should be reduced from 20 to 10 and I hope the Minister will understand the spirit behind this suggestion. Another point is that in certain areas, certain workers do not want to be covered under this scheme. They do not want this to be imposed on them. I hope the Minister will consider this point also.

Sir, the period of 20 years is a fairly long period. It is a deposit. I do not know when you cannot pay interest at the rate of 9 per cent per annum as the banks do.

Lastly, the Bill says about the co-operative sector. The co-operative societies are infra-structure of our economic activities in the rural areas. Today lakhs and lakhs of people are employed in this sector. But these employees are not covered. These em-

ployees are getting a low salary, that is about Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per month. Co-operative societies are spread over the country. If these workers are also covered, then it will benefit a large section of population. In this connection, I would also request that the discipline should be maintained among the employees so that it will avoid complaints from the trade union leaders. I do not understand the purpose behind opening sub-offices for this purpose. You should not open sub-offices simply for the sake of opening them at several places. It will create more problems for you. The minister understands what I mean. In Bengal or Bombay it may be necessary because there may be 1000 to 2000 officers. But if it is a small office, just for the sake of pleasing somebody I hope the minister will not resort to such actions.

With these words, I support the spirit of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): Sir, it is no exaggeration if I say that I have been educated by this discussion on the various aspects of the provident fund scheme, the way the organisation is expected to work and the way that legislation is to be enacted. I must compliment the mover of the Bill for the trouble he has taken in drafting the Bill. I know the difficulties of a private member in drafting a Bill. I am deeply impressed by the way he has drafted the Bill. But I must say that though I find some area of agreement with what he has proposed in the Bill we ourselves are trying to formulate proposals on the basis of the various recommendations on the subject. If Mr. Mehta allows us the opportunity to draft the Bill, I assure him that we will be benefited by the valuable suggestions made by hon. members who have participated in this discussion.

It is no consolation for us to say that arrears are stagnant. It is a very agonising phenomenon and I myself have been feeling very unhappy about it. But very vigorous efforts have been made in this direction. I will give some figures. On 31-3-1972 the total arrears stood at Rs. 20.66 crores, the share of textiles being Rs. 12.7 crores and that of the engineering industries being Rs. 2.49 crores. On 31-3-1973 the total was Rs. 19.61 crores, the share of textiles being Rs. 11.9 crores. On 31-3-74 the total was Rs. 19.6 crores, the share of textiles being Rs. 10.62 crores. On 31-3-1975, the total was Rs. 19.34 crores and the textile industry had a major share amounting to Rs. 10.45 crores. The National Textile Corporation comes into the picture here because they have got a major share in the textile industry. You know the circumstances in which the NTC had to take over various sick mills. We are having a meeting on 27th of this month to discuss the repayment scheme of NTC. I hope we would be able to arrive at some reasonable agreement and work out a fruitful scheme to clear the arrears.

Hon. members will appreciate that on 31-3-1975, the increase was about 64,712 and the total coverage was 76,03,124. But on 30th September 75, the corresponding figures were 65,431 and 77.5 lakhs respectively. So, though the arrears appear stagnant, the increase in membership should be understood in the context of recovery of arrears and the actual amount deposited with the provident fund commissioner.

Under the present Act, the appropriate State Government has got the power to exempt certain undertakings on certain conditions. Nearly 20 years ago, in the fifties, some undertakings have been exempted and in their case, the arrears are more. I am happy Dr. Ranen Sen had been frank and critical about the way in which the West

Bengal organisation has been working, not only the provident fund organisation but others also. The amount of P.F. dues are as follows: Bengal Potteries Rs. 41.84 lakhs, Alexandra Jute Co. Rs. 22.44 lakhs, Bengal Immunity Co. Ltd. Rs. 16.95 lakhs, East Bengal Engineering Co. Ltd. Rs. 5.17 lakhs, Kalvin Jute Co. Ltd. Rs. 71.7 lakhs, Kardah Co.—25.62, Kinnison Jute Co.—27.65, Meghna Mills—23.25, National Company—70.41. I am mentioning only some of the chronic cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What has been in the way in not initiating action?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Proceedings have been initiated. Every prosecution notices have been given. But what has happened in that article 226 of the Constitution is being very liberally used and if I may say so, with great respect, is being misused. When the issue was taken up with the Bengal Potteries in 1975, immediately they went to the High Court and got a stay order. In West Bengal, there is a chronic situation as far as legal matters are concerned and it is very difficult to appreciate the procedures of the courts. I am a lawyer but I did not come across such type of law anywhere. The fact remains that the companies frustrate any step of the Commissioner of Provident Fund in recovering the arrears. The hon. Members were pleased to allow to enact stringent provisions in the Act. But notwithstanding the stringent provisions, article 226 of the Constitution is being involved. For example, the National Jute Co. has got 70 lakhs of arrears. They have got the stay order and the repayment has been fixed by the High Court. If this article 226 of the Constitution would not have been used very liberally, probably by this time, we could have recovered a substantial amount of arrears that are due to the Provident Fund Commissioner. I may say with great respect that I believe in the judicial review of the

[Shri Raghunatha Reddy]

administrative action. But the indiscrete exercise of this article 226 of the Constitution may lead to a situation where the judicial review itself has to be restricted. I do not like any restriction on power but a situation might arise at least with respect to welfare legislation, with respect to provident fund where weaker sections of society are concerned, that something will have to be undertaken, because I believe that as long as inequality exists in terms of income between a person and a person, article 226 would work in favour of the rich man and the poor man will not get any help. And in the case of government organizations, while the entire Government is prepared to support such measures, if even Government's efforts are frustrated, it is a matter for deep concern and exercise of judicial conscience of the judges themselves. This is the situation in which arrears have come up. Some of the suggestions which the hon. Members have made, as I had said in the beginning, are worth considering, and speaking at least for myself, I will have the benefit of the valuable suggestions made. I am working on my suggestions; and in this context, the debate on the provisions given in the bill which Mr. Prasannbhai Mehta has drafted, will be taken into account. I hope Mr. Mehta will not put me to embarrassment by pressing this bill; I hope he will withdraw his bill.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I am very much thankful to all the hon. Members who had participated in this debate and whole-heartedly supported this bill to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952. I am also grateful to the hon. Minister who appreciated the spirit of the Bill as well as the drafting of the provisions. I am thankful to him for giving an assurance that they are thinking of coming forward with a comprehensive bill and that they are

in the process of drafting such a bill— if I have understood him correctly. And he has also asked me, appealed to me, to withdraw the Bill and not to press for the same and put him to an embarrassing position. Certainly, Sir, the intention of my bill is not to embarrass anybody. It is, as rightly pointed out, to accelerate the process. After all, Sir, the laws have their own history; and it is a continuous process. As and when the requirements of the society require that some new enactment must be provided by the State for their social security and for the furtherance of their interests, Government, *suo motu*, must come forward with such enactments. Now, Sir, if I recollect correctly, the hon. Minister has also assured the House during the debate on the previous Amendment Bill of this Act in the month of August 1973....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. It is now 6 O' clock. Is it the pleasure of the House that the Member be permitted to continue?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I will finish in 2 or 3 minutes. I was saying that the hon. Minister had assured the House at that time also that Government would come forward with a comprehensive Bill; but somehow or the other, they have failed to come forward with such a comprehensive bill. I would, therefore, simply ask the hon. Minister as to when they would be bringing in this comprehensive bill, as per their planning.

18 hrs.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: — it is to be a comprehensive bill, it must be comprehensively worked out.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: How long will it take?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I can assure you that I am working on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that assurance not enough?

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: The Minister has, therefore, assured the House that he is working for the comprehensive Bill; so, since I can take it that he will bring in this comprehensive Bill as early as possible, I do not press for my Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That leave be granted to Shri P. M. Mehta to withdraw the Bill further to amend Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The motion is adopted. Now he has to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I only said that I do not press for the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After the motion is voted, he has to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Keeping in view the assurance given to the House and in order to accommodate the Government and the Minister, withdraw the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. on Tuesday.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, January 27, 1976/Magha 7, 1997 (Saka).